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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think the definition of who can own land in the CNMI should be changed to include long-time residents of whatever nationality?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Protecting the Olympic brand is always a big job, and never more so than this year.

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WORLD

A Yemeni soldier detonates a bomb hidden in his military uniform, killing 96.

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LIFE & STYLE

"Transformers: The Ride–3D" debuts Friday at Universal Studios Hollywood.

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120 retirees told to return $5M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez said the Fund is trying to recoup from 120 retirees an estimated $5 million in overpayments arising from the pension agency's own misapplication of a law prior to 2001. Affected retirees said they plan to meet Thursday to discuss the possibility of a class action suit against the Fund.

- One retiree asked to pay back $225,000
- Affected retirees mull class action suit
- Bill to block Fund may be introduced today

The Fund sent the letters on or about May 8, 2012, addressed to retirees who separated from government as far back as 19 years ago or longer.

One of those letters was addressed to former police officer and former quarantine officer Frederick C. Ngeskabei, 52, who is being asked to return $225,000 to the Fund by having up to 50 percent cut in his bi-monthly pension until the full amount is recovered.

"I retired in 1993, that's 19 years ago and now they want me to pay back $225,000. It's not my fault. Why do I have to suffer from their own mistakes?" Ngeskabei told *Saipan*

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It's now official: Palms Resort sold to E-Land

» CNMI govt readies contract award to UMDA for La Fiesta revitalization

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After months of negotiations and false alarms, United Micronesia Development Association Inc. chair Jose R. Lifoifoi formally announced yesterday the multimillion sale of its Micronesia Resort Inc.—which owns the 14-story, 313-room Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque—to South Korea-based E Land Park.

E Land Park is one of the many companies in the E Land Group of Companies, a worldwide conglomerate engaged in fashion, hotels, condominiums and construction, and has reported holdings of some $7 billion.

"While UMDA had other interested parties, UMDA selected E Land because of its impressive business experience in Korea and China and its business philosophies—sharing, rightness, growth and serving," Lifoifoi said in a statement.

He said E Land is one of the top companies in South Korea.

"UMDA looks forward to E Land's renovation and revital-

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Storm Sanvu moves away from Marianas

The tropical depression intensified yesterday afternoon into a tropical storm even as it moved northwestward away from coastal waters of the Marianas.

As of 5pm, Tropical Storm Sanvu was still churning northwestward at 12 miles per hour with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph, according to the Emergency Management Office and the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam.

At that time, Sanvu's center was 130 miles west-northwest of Guam, 155 miles west of Rota, 190 miles west-southwest of Tinian, and 200 miles southwest of Saipan.

A tropical storm warning at that time was still in effect for Guam and Rota, while a tropical storm watch was also still in effect for Tinian and Saipan.

Tropical storm warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected within the next 24 hours. NWS said all persons in the warning areas

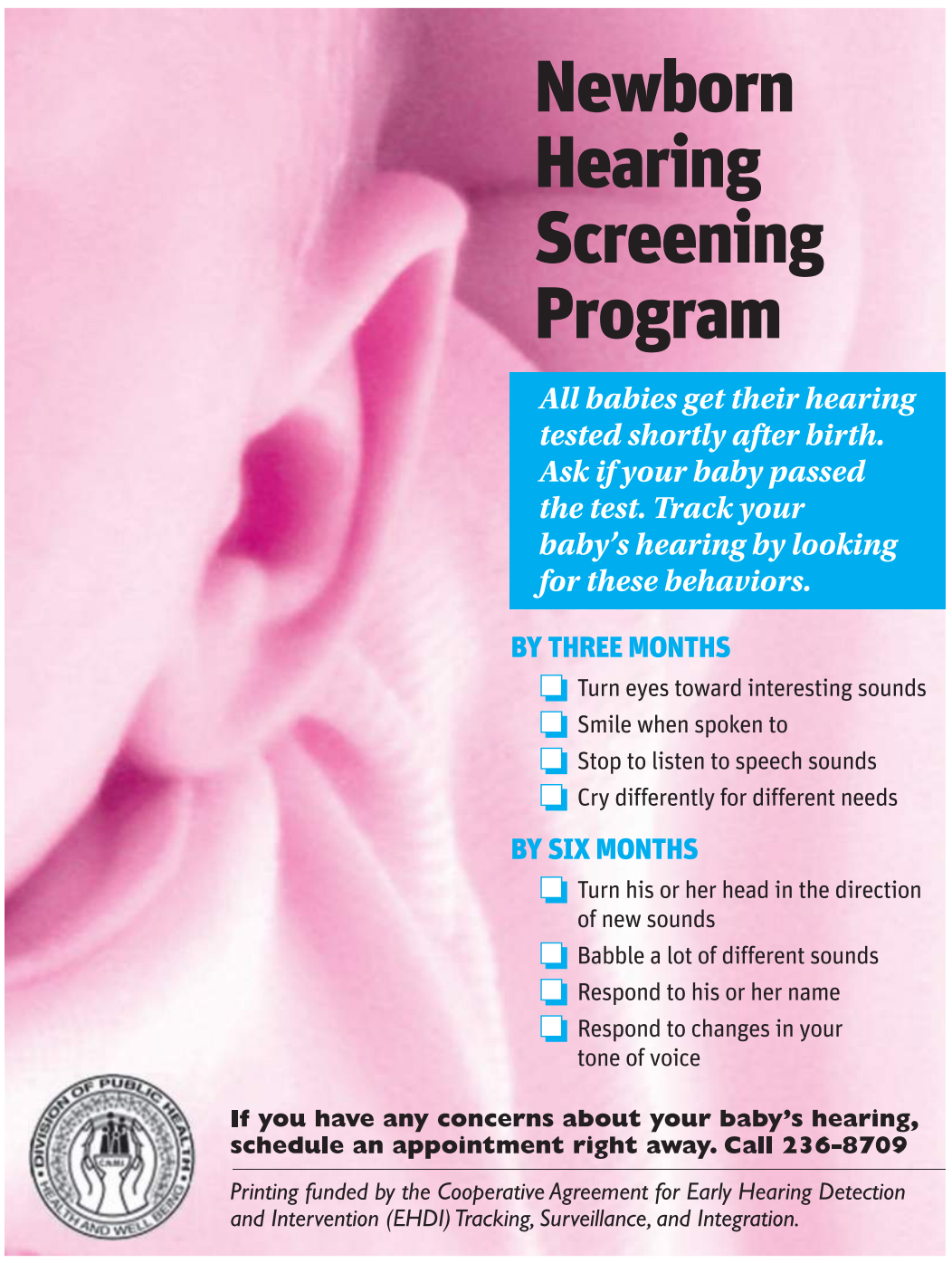
See STORM on Page 4

MARKING USDA ANNIVERSARY CLARISSA V. DAVID

Northern Marianas College natural resource management students Severino Alforeza III, Edward Dela Cruz Jr., and Tom Pangelinan weed out grass surrounding a young tree at the Laolao Bay revegetation site yesterday morning. The three, who are members of the Environmental and Natural Resource Organization or Club ENRO, were among the 15 volunteers who braved the rain to take part in yesterday's activity organized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to mark the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ***See story on Page 6***

Fitial, Kilili set aside politics to work on naval vessel repair bill. PAGE 3

Gas prices on Rota, Tinian still $5.999 to $6.80 a gallon. PAGE 5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Local

Fitial urged not to sign criminal record expungement bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former Commonwealth Zoning Board chair Herminia M. Fusco has asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial not to sign a bill that would allow the expungement of criminal records and restoration of certain rights, saying the government should worry more about the majority of decent, law-abiding citizens than the feelings of criminals.

"And by allowing convicted criminals to occupy elected office, this bill will make a mockery of those very offices. Elected leaders are supposed to be a little better than the rest of us, not worse," Fusco said in a two-page letter to Fitial.

Fusco sent her letter to the governor two days after the House passed the bill on May 15.

The measure, "The Restoration of Rights and Expungement Act of 2010," reached the Office of the Governor only at 1:40pm yesterday.

The bill's author, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), said the bill already underwent several reviews and revisions, and it is now up to the governor to make a decision.

"Like I said before, this is not a blanket expungement. One has to go through a legal process," Torres said.

Torres also believes that Fusco will try to block any bill he introduces. Fusco, when she was still with the Commonwealth Zoning Board, was critical of Torres' bills that sought to amend or repeal the zoning law.

Fusco, in her letter to Fitial, said as a CNMI citizen, she is "dismayed that a bill like this would even be proposed by one of our elected representatives and passed by the Legislature."

"The very first sentence of this bill sums up its logic. It states that 'law abiding citizens of the Commonwealth are being unfairly burdened.' If these citizens are law abiding then why do their records need expungement?" Fusco said.

She posed seven questions concerning the bill, including "who suggested that maintaining criminal records are a problem?" and "Specifically, whose past are we trying to whitewash?"

"What is the message we are sending to the general public, especially our children? Are we saying that committing a crime is okay because you can eventually have your criminal record expunged?" Fusco asked.

She also asked, "Why must we continue to lower our standards in the CNMI, instead of raising them?"

With so much criminality going on the island, "shouldn't we be more concerned in imposing tougher laws rather than trying to be more lenient and accommodating of convicted criminals?"

She said the bill's author "seems to be worried about the 'rights' of convicted criminals."

"What about the rights of his constituents? His constituents have a right to know the background of those criminals that live and work in their community that they come in contact with, either as public or private employees, elected representatives or neighbors. How about worrying about is for once?" she asked.

Torres has said his measure will help people who have been rehabilitated to "go on with their lives" to become better citizens and be able to find a job or accepted to schools.

The bill does not grant a right of expungement or restoration of rights to sex offenders; those who have more than one conviction for a violent crime or offense that is punishable by five years or more; and those convicted of any heinous crime such as murder, rape, aggravated

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Regents back initiative that paves way for changing NMC's mission statement

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College has expressed its support for a Senate legislative initiative that would amend the Constitution to allow regents to revise the mission statement of the CNMI's community college.

Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12, introduced by Senate President Paul A. Manglona, would make changes to Section (b) of Article 15, which contains the current mission statement of the college.

NMC's Frankie Eliptico said during Monday's board meeting that the initiative was passed by the House last week and is expected to be passed by the Senate.

"Once the Senate passes it, it then goes to the Election Commission, [which] will certify it and [place it on] the ballot," said Eliptico.

He said that the initiative will require two changes: the word "mission" will be revised to "purpose" and a proviso will be added stating that it will be the Board of Regents that will establish the mission statement.

He said that NMC has already talked to both the House and the Senate to expedite the passage of the bill since they need as much time as possible to conduct a public education campaign around the initiative before it goes to the November ballots.

Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, president of NMC, noted that accreditation standards call for the Board of Regents to establish the institution's mission. She said this is one of the things the accreditation team will be looking at during their visit this fall.

NMC remains on probation with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

Hart described as "unusual" the current setup of NMC's mission statement since other states delegate the mission statement of their community colleges to their respective boards, allowing these governing bodies to periodically revisit and re-examine the mission statement.

"A mission statement reflects what the institution is doing now," she said.

The college's mission statement has remained the same for 31 years and does not reflect new programs such as online education.

"I'm looking forward to having this board work with the college and the community in reviewing its mission," said Hart.

It was pointed out at the meeting that the public must be informed about the kind of mission statement that NMC will try to come up with in order to make the initiative more "sellable" to the public.

Fitial, Kilili set aside politics to work on naval vessel repair bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) set aside their political differences yesterday to work on reviving in Congress a recently rejected bill that would allow the overhaul and repair of U.S. naval vessels in the CNMI.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed Friday the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act without Sablan's H.R. 4338 that would include the CNMI as a site where military vessels may be repaired.

Sablan, in an interview with reporters after his 2:30pm meeting with Fitial on Capital Hill yesterday, said this was his first formal meeting with Fitial since the governor was re-elected in 2009. Sablan said he requested for a meeting, which the governor accepted.

"We're working together on this one," Sablan said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said as far as the governor is concerned, "the hardship of the people of the CNMI is at a critical juncture that requires the undivided attention of elected leaders."

"While the governor and the delegate don't always agree on certain policy decisions, both of them share common ground that the plight of the people must be addressed. The governor is sincere and willing to work with the delegate and all other elected leaders if the intention is to benefit the people of the Commonwealth," Demapan said.

Sablan said he has been reaching out to his Democratic colleagues and asked the governor yesterday to also talk to his Republican friends in Congress to support the bill once it's re-introduced.

"We try to make our own approach in the Senate although the chance is rather slim. But we're still going to try. And if this doesn't work this year, next year we'll have more time together to work on this. I asked him to work on his Republican friends also and hopefully next year—God willing and the people willing that I continue to represent them in Congress—we'll try again [to introduce the bill]," Sablan said.

Sablan reiterated that they didn't whip the vote on his bill, which was defeated by a vote of 118-303.

"Considering that we didn't whip the vote really, that's a good bill and despite instructions from the chairman of the Armed Services and the ranking member—and the instruction was to vote 'no,' we got 118," he said, adding that "influential" members of the House voted "yes" to his bill, including Reps. Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer and David Dreier, chairman of the Rules Committee.

Joining Fitial and Sablan in the meeting were Demapan and Mike Tenorio from Sablan's office.

Demapan said that Fitial strongly supported Sablan's bill, which has long been the subject of meetings the governor has had with members of Congress over the past year while in the nation's capitol.

"Governor Fitial was also instrumental in enlisting the support of Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo. Now that the legislation failed to muster the needed votes in the U.S. House, Gov. Fitial and Delegate Kilili will both seek out the possibility of having the bill introduced and originate from the U.S. Senate. Gov. Fitial expressed his intention to get in touch with key Republicans and in turn, asked the delegate to do the same with his Democrat colleagues, in an effort to make another attempt of getting this much needed legislation through the U.S. Congress," Demapan said.

Demapan also said Fitial recognizes that the economic challenges are a tremendous burden on the people "and so he and the lieutenant governor are working hard to bring much needed relief to the islands."

"But the administration cannot do it alone, it would require the whole cooperation of the delegate and the members of the CNMI Legislature," the press secretary added.

No costs award for translated documents

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court says interpretation and translation are not the same thing when it comes to paying fees associated with federal civil lawsuits.

The high court ruled Monday that Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. did not deserve to get $5,517.20 in compensation for interpreters for fighting off a lawsuit from a Japanese professional baseball player.

The company argued that translating written documents was the same as "compensation of interpreters," which can be charged to losing parties.

The court disagreed. This came in a case where Japanese professional baseball player Kouichi Taniguchi sued the Marianas Resort and Spa, which is owned by Kan Pacific, after falling through a wooden deck while in the Northern Mariana Islands. A federal judge and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out his lawsuit and awarded costs to Kan Pacific.

The opinion was written by Justice Samuel Alito, who noted that justices made the decision available in English. "Anybody who wants to read it in another language will have to pay to have it translated, not interpreted," he joked.

FITIAL

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sexual assault, or any other conviction deemed by the CNMI Superior Court and the Office of the Attorney General as justification to forfeit a person's right for expungement or restoration of rights.

The eight-page bill has been bouncing between the House and Senate since Torres introduced it in March 2010.

The bill is House Bill 17-52, HD2, SS1, SD1.

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Bill eyed to amend SS law to allow buyback for NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos are now looking into federal legislation to amend the Social Security law in order to allow a buyback for the CNMI, whose Retirement Fund has the dubious distinction of being the first public pension agency on U.S. soil to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Sablan, who met with Inos on Monday, said the CNMI is not part of the definition of "state" that is allowed buyback.

"Right now states can do buyback but we can't, so we have to redefine 'state' to include the Northern Marianas. It's a very simple amendment although it has huge implications," Sablan told reporters yesterday.

Sablan said the decision of whether it's going to be a five-year or 10-year buyback will be left to negotiations between the CNMI government and the U.S. Social Security Administration.

He said he could include his bill as a rider in a major bill so it could move faster.

Sablan and Inos will meet again next week to further discuss the matter.

Assistant attorney general Jim Stump had a teleconference yesterday with Social Security Administration officials.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said there's not much new development following the teleconference but both the CNMI and SSA are currently reviewing governing statutes relative to opting into the Social Security program.

"This includes the idea of 'buy back' as well as determining whether and act of Congress would be needed at any point during the process. A follow-up teleconference will be scheduled possibly next week," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Inos told reporters on Saturday that moving back to the U.S. Social Security system is the only option at this time to place a safety net for NMI Retirement Fund retirees, active government employees, and others involved, and the Fitial administration is requesting a 10-year buy back instead of five years.

"We cannot afford the existing retirement. It is not sustainable. Doing nothing is not an option," Inos had said.

Sablan said he initiated talks with SSA on the matter since May 2009. "But obviously, people get busy, things falls through the crack. So now it's a problem and I'm still here as it was in May 2009. Where I can help, I will help," he said.

The Fitial administration said it has also been communicating with SSA for years.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD NMC

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama, fourth from left, and NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, fourth from right, present the Academic Excellence Award to 2012 graduate Joy Bariso Lacorte, fifth from left. Lacorte recently graduated from NMC with an associate degree in liberal arts. In this photo, from left, are regent William Torres, regent Elaine Hocog-Orilla, Joy's mother Jo Lacorte, Lizama, Joy Bariso Lacorte, Hart, Associated Students of NMC president Lawrence Camacho, regent Maria (Malua) Peter, and faculty member John Cook.

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Tribune yesterday.

The Fund has also asked retired police major Antonio O. Kiyoshi to pay back $93,000. Kiyoshi granted an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* last week, saying the Fund should not punish retirees for the agency's own mistakes.

Ngeskabei and Kiyoshi said they also plan to appeal with the Fund board of trustees, but the board now lacks a quorum.

'Duty-bound to recollect'

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) wrote a letter to the Fund's Villagomez on May 17, the day the story about Kiyoshi came out, to inquire about the number of retirees that were mailed a similar letter, the total dollar amount involved, and the statutory reference or basis for the Fund's decision, among other things.

Villagomez, in a May 21 response to Sablan's letter, said the Fund sent approximately 120 adverse action letters resulting from the Fund's internal audit of the top overtime earners.

He said a number of benefits was overstated as a result of a misapplication of the law prior to 2001.

"I am duty bound to recollect these funds as these funds are necessary to pay properly accrued benefits to other members. The total amount that we seek to recoup as a result of these 120 letters is approximately $5,000,000," Villagomez told Sablan in his letter.

Villagomez said these adverse actions are based upon the law in place "at the time these individuals retired." He was referring to 1 CMC 8313(p) that required overtime and compensatory time to be used to calculate eligibility only but not to calculate the amount of benefit given to a retiree.

"The affected members' benefit amounts were calculated taking overtime and compensatory time into consideration in violation of this provision. As stated above, these are administrative actions appealable to the board of trustees. While the board of trustees has been kept apprised of the ongoing audit, the board of trustees took no part in my decision as it was an administrative matter. This is consistent with the Fund's administrative process," Villagomez told Sablan.

'Blocking the Fund'

Sablan, in an interview yesterday, said he is drafting a bill that would prevent the Fund from going after these 120 retirees because of the Fund's own miscalculations. He said he might introduce the bill on the floor in today's session, or in the next few days.

"In these difficult times, retirees are forced to have up to 50 percent cut in their benefits every other week, and it's not even their fault. And with the bankruptcy proceedings, who knows, these same retirees will have additional cuts of say 50 percent in their pensions so these retirees will end up not receiving any pension at all," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he asked the House legal counsel to see whether a statue of limitation could apply to the Fund matter.

"The Fund allowed this mistake to go on for so long. We're not talking about one year or two years but a decade or more. Now all of a sudden they want these people who retired several years ago to pay back," said Sablan, a former immigration director and currently chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

Ngeskabei said retirees who received adverse action letters from the Fund plan to meet on Thursday, 6pm, at Minatchom Atdao pavilion in Susupe to map out a plan to address their concerns, including a possible class action suit against the Fund.

"I am currently receiving $39,000 a year in pension. The Fund said it will be reduced to $27,000. We all know that the economy is so bad, the prices of medicine, gas and almost every item are high, we can't afford to lose up to 50 percent of our pension every two weeks," he added.

Sablan said his office has heard of a lot of complaints and concerns from retirees about the notices of adverse action, prompting him to write to the Fund.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) had said the Fund should be prepared for a possible class action from affected retirees.

The NMI Retirement Fund is the first public pension agency on U.S. soil to seek bankruptcy protection in court.

OFFICIAL

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ization of the hotel property and future promotion of CNMI," Lifoifoi added.

Lifoifoi, who also chairs the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors, did not provide other details, including purchase price, exact date of purchase, and planned hotel name change.

Sources said the purchase price is "over $20 million but less than $25 million" but UMDA is mum on this as of yesterday.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that UMDA's announcement is "welcome news."

"The purchase will mean new dollars in the economy, construction firms will be put to work, employees will be needed for the hotel, taxes will begin to be paid anew," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

Brennan said it is especially "good news to hear as we applaud Saipan Air's emergence as a carrier for Asian tourists."

"It's a great problem to have wondering where we'd get the additional hotel rooms to accommodate an increase in tourist arrivals to the CNMI," he added.

In January, the *Korean Herald* ran a story that said E Land Group has acquired Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Palms Resort Saipan for still undisclosed amounts. A month later, UMDA denied the report, saying their Palms Resort is not sold yet.

Known as the former Nikko Hotel, Palms Resort is a 14-story, 313-room hotel across the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. UMDA acquired it in February 2008 and renamed it Palms Resort. In 2010, it announced major renovation plans that resulted in the layoff of its more than 100 employees.

Sources also said PIC is still negotiating with E Land, although it was initially only a "stock purchase."

UMDA-La Fiesta

In other news, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration is close to awarding a contract to UMDA to revitalize La Fiesta Mall, which is across The Palms Resort.

Inos believes that UMDA's plans for La Fiesta will complement the renovation of The Palms, now owned by E Land.

"We're just working out the details," said Inos, reiterating that UMDA agreed to take over the government's annual land lease payment of $200,000.

Inos said the government is also negotiating rental fee and royalty fee with UMDA.

La Fiesta, he said, will be revived as a shopping mall with restaurants and boutiques, with an added feature of video lottery terminals.

Inos said the government hopes to sign the contract before the start of fiscal year 2013 on Oct. 1 because the governor's 2013 budget no longer includes the government's $200,000 annual lease payment for the La Fiesta property.

The former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque has been sitting idle for years yet costs the government $200,000 in annual lease since at least 2004, a year after the government bought the complex in 2003 initially for the Northern Marianas College's Pacific Gateway Project but this did not take off.

UMDA was one of three bidders that responded to a request for proposal to revitalize the former mall.

The two others were Island Ventures LLC and Pacific Entertainment Technology.

STORM

From Page 1

should already have preparations underway to protect life and property.

Tropical storm watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the next 48 hours. NWS said all persons in the watch areas should review their preparedness plan and be ready to implement it should a warning be issued for their area.

Both tropical storm warning and tropical storm watch were cancelled at 8:30pm last night.

The tropical storm's center was at its closest to the Marianas at 7am yesterday—60 miles southwest of Guam, 115 miles southwest of Rota, 180 miles southwest of Tinian, and 195 miles southwest of Saipan.

The storm brought numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning until last night, Tuesday. NWS said that scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will linger into Wednesday night in the region. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Gas prices on Rota, Tinian still $5.999 to $6.80 a gallon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Despite two pump price reductions on Saipan totaling 20 cents in the last two weeks, Rota has seen only one price cut and still has the dubious distinction of having the most expensive gas on American soil, ranging from $6 to $6.80 a gallon. Tinian's prices of $5.999 to $6.549 a gallon remain unchanged.

"We reduced our prices only once recently, and we haven't received notification yet of an additional price cut," Rota's Sasanhaya Service Station manager Beato Calvo told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

Regular unleaded gasoline at Rota's Sasanhaya Service Station is down to $6 a gallon after a 10-cent drop two weeks ago, Calvo said.

Diesel at Sasanhaya Service station is now $6.80 a gallon.

"High gas prices affect everybody. We live on an island, we don't have resources so we rely on imported products including gas. We can't do anything about the gas prices at all so we have to cut somewhere else to make up for the high gas prices," Calvo said, adding that their service station had to resort to work hour cuts to cope with the business hardships.

In the U.S., average regular gas was $3.693 a gallon as of May 22.

Luta Gas also sells $6 a gallon regular unleaded gasoline after a 10-cent cut on May 18, according to one of its employees yesterday.

On Tinian, prices remain unchanged despite the two price cuts on Saipan.

Tinian's SN Five sells regular unleaded gasoline for $6 a gallon and diesel for $6.459 a gallon, one of its employees said yesterday.

Its competition, Tinian Fuel Service Station, sells regular unleaded gasoline for $5.999 a gallon and diesel for $6.549 a gallon as of yesterday, one of its employees said.

On Saipan, regular unleaded gasoline at Mobil and Shell service stations is now $4.959 a gallon; super unleaded gasoline is now $5.279 a gallon; and diesel, now $5.319 a gallon.

Kilili: US Senate, Obama will not allow Medicaid cuts to territories

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said Monday that the Democrat-led Senate and President Barack Obama won't allow U.S. territories to lose $6.3 billion in Medicaid funding that they worked so hard to be included in health care reform legislation.

"It's not going to pass the Senate. It won't allow the posturing of the House Republicans. The territorial delegates and their supporters have also reached out to the White House and they won't allow these cuts to the already underserved population," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan

The U.S. House of Representatives passed on May 10 a Republican bill that would slash Medicaid funding to the CNMI by $100 million and a total of $6.3 billion to all five U.S. territories, but delegates are hoping that the Democrat-led U.S. Senate will trash the proposal.

Sablan said Monday that the Republican proposal would actually result in $158 million in lost Medicaid funding for the CNMI over a 10-year span.

For low-income families and officials in the CNMI, a $158-million Medicaid funding cut in a 10-year period spells disaster at a time when household expenses are already high and the Commonwealth Health Corp. teeters on the brink of a shutdown due to lack of funding.

The Medicaid funding cut was part of the Republican Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act, H.R. 5652 or the fiscal year 2013 spending plan that Sablan said "reflects the majority's unbalanced approach to deficit reduction."

"They provide costly additional tax breaks for millionaires while finding savings by ending the Medicare guarantee for seniors, cutting food stamps, and taking away Medicaid from the territories," he had said.

Medicaid is the federal health care program for low-income families. Some 14,700 people in the Marianas who cannot afford health insurance are eligible for hospital care, outpatient services, and prescription drugs through Medicaid.

Judge rejects plea agreement for man accused of sex abuse

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has rejected a proposed plea agreement that the government offered a 52-year-old man facing two criminal cases, including sex abuse of four different child victims.

Naraja said he feels the plea agreement entered by Alejandre M. Manzo is unjust because it dismisses all of the child sexual abuse charges.

"Excusing [Manzo] of all five charged sexual offenses allegedly committed against four different child victims would contravene the law and public policy," said Naraja.

He noted that Manzo was charged in a 2011 criminal case with five counts of child abuse in the second degree, each count allowing a prison sentence of up to 10 years and fine of up to $10,000.

"These severe sanctions are provided by the new law, Public Law 12-82, which represent the will and sentiment of the people of the community that there will be no tolerance for sex crimes committed against children," the judge said.

The new law, he added, imposed harsher sentences because the previous "code sections dealing with sex crimes [did] not provide penalties which are severe enough to ensure the protection of the community or to adequately deter persons from engaging in the prohibited conduct."

"There is a great concern that approving the proposed settlement agreement will undermine our community's campaign against child abuse," Naraja said.

Aside from the five counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, the government also charged Manzo in the same criminal case with four counts of disturbing the peace.

In the second case, the government charged him with one count of assault with a dangerous weapon (domestic violence), and one count of disturbing the peace.

Under the proposed plea agreement, Manzo would plead guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon. In exchange for his guilty plea, the Office of the Attorney General will drop the charge of disturbing the peace in one case and all nine counts in the second case.

The OAG agreed to a one-year prison term for Manzo, with credit for time already served in jail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

US Trustee: No objection to issuance of Fund benefits

The U.S. Trustee for the District of the CNMI does not oppose the NMI Retirement Fund's request to continue to provide benefits to its beneficiaries during the pendency of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case.

Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis Ching said they will not object to the Fund's motion provided that there will be limitations.

The Fund had asked for court authority to continue paying out certain benefits to beneficiaries, proposing a rate of payments that is between 42 percent and 100 percent of current benefits.

In the U.S. Trustee's response, Ching said the authorization should be limited to two months, without prejudice to the Fund seeking approval for continued payments.

Ching said the authorization should be at a rate that would allow the Fund to sustain itself.

Based on the Fund's representations, he said this would require a substantial reduction in the current payment levels.

Ching said post-petition payments should be recorded and credited to those beneficiaries receiving payments.

"Any confirmed plan should provide corresponding benefits to beneficiaries who did not receive such post-petition payments," he added.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris earlier granted the Fund's request to immediately conduct a hearing on its several motions, including the motion for continued payment.

The hearing on the Fund's several motions will start on June 1, 2012, at 9:30am. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-006

SUGAR DOCK DREDGING IN SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Sugar Dock Dredging in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after May 09, 2012 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a ***Mandatory*** **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on May 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Division of Fish & Wildlife Conference Room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 31, 2012 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director, Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that a full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if used after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in t he space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW12-IFB-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 11, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 11, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 11, 2012, and must be received no later than June 21, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 27, 2012, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 14, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the CNMI, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty (30) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US $100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B.CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director Procurement and Supply

/s/ JOAQUIN B. SONGSONG
Acting Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation
to our family and friends for their support during

JR Sablan's
Medical Fundraiser Event
on Saturday, May 12, 2012.
And to all those who helped in one way or another,
We will always keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Un sen Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase/
Maraming Salamat Po/
Thank You

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments
not received by close of these business days

January 20 • February 27 • March 20
April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20
August 22 • September 20 • October 24
November 21 • December 20

will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on these days. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before these dates.

THIS WILL BE THE
ONLY NOTIFICATION
IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **these dates**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service,
Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or
Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

IT&E
Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may **pay your IT&E bill at any location below:**

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau/Tinian/Rota Office– up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

NRCS Saipan marks USDA's 150th anniversary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The local field office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture marked the agency's 150th anniversary by removing unwanted grass around tree saplings at the Laolao Badlands yesterday.

Armed with knives and cutters, some 15 Earth Team volunteers—composed of NRCS staff, members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Organization or ENRO out of the Northern Marianas College, and Division of Environmental Qualityrepresentatives—braved the downpour and muddy terrain to remove grass growing around and overpowering the young trees in the area.

These trees were planted in a 14-acre deforested area in the hills above the bay as part of DEQ's Laolao Bay Revegetation Project, a component of a three-year, ARRA-funded coastal habitat restoration project aimed at reducing sedimentation into the Laolao Bay marine environment as well as re-establishing in the area as a forest habitat with native plants.

The group met with Dr. Ryan Okano of DEQ by the entrance to the badlands for instructions before hiking to the area's volunteer site. They worked for a few hours yesterday morning, then shared an island-style barbecue lunch afterwards to cap their productive, albeit rainy, day.

In an interview at the site, Okano noted that it is during the rainy season when competition between plants and unwanted grass is at its highest, thus the need to remove the weeds in order to increase the survival rate of the plants.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Two men clear out the weeds choking one of the young trees that were planted as part of the Laolao Bay Revegetation project yesterday morning. The activity was organized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to mark the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

During the dry season, however, not much maintenance is needed. In fact, the grass somehow "protects" the plants from the harsh rays of the sun, he said.

Okano disclosed that they got the maintenance needs at the Laolao revegetation area covered from June to August as they expect several college students to take part in the Coral Reef Internship during the summer break.

According to Okano, the survival rate for the revegetation project is at 67 percent, exceeding their goal of 50 percent. "It's a harsh environment up here because the soil does not have enough nutrients here, a lot of competition with other plants, it's hot and dry…so we're happy with the survival rate."

Okano said the project is an "island effort" as many government agencies and volunteer groups have joined the project, including the ENRO members who are taking a course in natural resource management at NMC, as well as the NRCS, which decided to commemorate its anniversary by helping Laolao Bay.

NRCS is among the offices under USDA, which was established when President Abraham Lincoln signed the legislation creating the agency on May 15, 1862.

"One hundred and fifty years later, USDA continues to realize that vision of service by applying sound public policy and science to an evolving food and agriculture system," said President Barack Obama in his proclamation.

USDA secretary Tom Vilsack said the "significant milestone" is an opportunity to reflect on the agency's impact for all Americans and commended all employees who have been "critical" to the nation's prosperity.

To celebrate the occasion, USDA employees were encouraged to grow 'Abraham Lincoln' heirloom tomatoes in their own homes and at People's Gardens around the world.

For the NRCS Saipan Field Office, they chose to conduct an activity that is closest to what the office stands for, according to new district conservationist Kendal B. Hicks.

"Our agency motto is 'Helping People Help the Land.' That's what we feel like we were trying to do," Hicks told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the event also highlights NRCS' partnerships with other agencies and groups that share the same goals and passion for protecting and conserving our natural resources.

Hicks noted that USDA, through NRCS, is involved with the Kagman watershed project, a collaborative venture with the CNMI government through the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil & Water Conservation District. The watershed project involves the construction of waterways, sediment basins, a 70-million gallon reservoir, and an irrigation system.

"It kind of fits together and it all goes together with the treatment and care of our watershed so that ultimately, the water that leaves the land and goes out to the Laolao Bay is cleaner, fresher, safer water," he added.

Hicks commended yesterday's volunteers who exhibited a great deal of "faithfulness, devotion and eagerness" to aid efforts to protect Laolao Bay. "It's phenomenal that they have that measure of commitment. Rain's not going to stop them."

Hicks, who officially replaced James Eller in March, emphasized NRCS' "long-term commitment" to the island. He said NRCS will continue to provide assistance to private landowners on island as long as the partnership approach is maintained.

According to Hicks, the role of NRCS is to work with private landowners "to help them help their land" by developing conservation plans and providing financial assistance to implement conservation practices.

"Without the partnership with the people on the island, without their commitment to beautify and conserve their natural resources, we won't be able to do our work," he said.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CPA-IFB-002-12

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA") calls for bids to furnish one new 2012 4X4, V-6, gas, SUV vehicle.

1. The bid specifications contained in the Vehicle Bid Form provide in detail the CPA's requirements for the vehicle. Vehicle Bid Forms are available at the CPA Administrative Office, second floor of the Arrival Terminal, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950. You may contact telephone number 237-6500 for assistance.
2. Each bid shall be made on the Vehicle Bid Form furnished by the CPA.
3. The bid amount shall include the furnishing of all labor, supervision, equipment, supplies, transportation, taxes, fees, and all other items necessary to perform the work and services requested.
4. Bid documents must be received in a sealed envelope clearly labeled with "VEHICLE BID" and the name of the Bidder printed on the outside of the envelope. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission or by email will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline specified below shall be returned to the bidder unopened.
5. Bids shall be submitted at the CPA Administration Office located at the Saipan International Airport, second floor of the Arrival Terminal, no later than 2:00p.m. on May 23rd, 2012.
6. Bids will be publicly opened on May 29th, 2012 at the hour of 10:00a.m. in the Executive Director's conference room, second floor of the Arrival Terminal, Saipan International Airport, and there read aloud and recorded. All interested bidders are invited to attend.
7. The successful bidder will be required to furnish vehicle meeting the Bid Specifications within 60 days of receipt of payment from the CPA.
8. This acquisition is funded from a 2009 Ports Security Grant from Homeland Security and FEMA.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
(MOWING, TRIMMING AND CLEANING OF GROUNDS)
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for ground maintenance services of the International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services of the Saipan International Airport as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, evaluation factors, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, **May 16th, 2012**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to the RFP shall take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "**Proposal for Ground Maintenance Services (mowing, trimming and cleaning of grounds of the Saipan International Airport**"). One(1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, June 15th, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) available resources (funds and ground work tools and equipment) to accomplish project, (2) price, (3) similar projects completed,(4) sufficiency of workers and their categories, (5)list of pending and ongoing projects and (6) Valid CNMI Business license.

Proposer will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., **Wednesday, May 23rd, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director's Office at (670)234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals: or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO Date: 5/9/2012
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.:RFP12-DEQ-080

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 18, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PESTICIDE SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MAY 16, 2012 AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. REINA CAMACHO (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO **reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JUNE 05, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DPW/ED-056

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 21, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROVISION OF FOUR (4) DIESEL COMMERCIAL WOOD CHIPPERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THETHE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJET WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 16, 2012** AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISION OF ENERGY LOCATED AT THE SPRINGS DEVELOPMENT PLAZA OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO 4woodchippers@recovery.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **JUNE 05, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**. AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, LOCATED IN MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN.

ALL **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, ON JUNE 11, 2012** TO **commercialwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp** OR FACSIMILE TO (670) 664-4488

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

‘Mayor’s decision not to host 2012 Liberation Day not final’

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor’s Office officer in charge Henry Hofschneider said yesterday it is not yet final if the Liberation Day festivities will not push through this year.

“Hopefully, we’ll have a celebration on July 4th,” said Hofschneider during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday.

Hofschneider said the Liberation Day committee will sit down with Mayor Donald G. Flores, who is scheduled to return from the Philippines today.

Flores earlier stated that this year’s Liberation Day festivities may not happen if the Legislature fails to allocate money for it.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation did not appropriate funding for this year’s Liberation Day, arguably the largest community event in the CNMI.

The celebration traditionally lasted a month, starting in June up until July 4, which is marked with a parade along Beach Road that ends with a program by the Garapan Fishing Base. The annual event draws thousands of spectators.

Hofchneider said their office has been receiving calls inquiring about Liberation Day-related activities such as the Liberation Queen application or the float competition.

“The interest is there but the Mayor’s Office and the local delegation need to meet and square this up,” he noted.

With the Mayor’s Office’s financial limitations, the Liberation Day committee has decided to trim the celebration to just a week, yet the legislative delegation still denied the committee’s funding request.

According to Hofschneider Rep. Ray Yumul of the House Ways & Means Committee has a “black hole theory” that funds appropriated for Liberation Day will be used by the Mayor’s Office to pay for its outstanding obligations.

“We don’t believe it. We don’t agree with him,” said Hofschneider.

If the delegation fears that, then there is a “quick, simple, easy fix,” Hofschneider said. “Just create a provision in the law that would prohibit the Mayor’s Office and the Department of Finance from using the Liberation Day funds to pay for other debts.”

He pointed out that the Flores administration does not have any outstanding debts since they took office two years ago. “We’re still paying debts from the prior administrations for July 4th festivities,” he added.

Hofschneider also noted that the Liberation Day celebration “has never been officially made the responsibility of the mayor.”

He said there has not been any funding for the event in the last two years. According to him, the local delegation appropriated $45,000 for Liberation Day expenses in fiscal year 2010 but it was line-item vetoed.

Last year, he said, the Mayor’s Office ended up using its own funds from other accounts to pay for the event after being assured that they will be reimbursed for the Liberation expenses.

“We’ve been asking for reimbursement since the end of July 4th last year and we haven’t gotten anything,” said Hofschneider.

“This year, the mayor says no,” he added, referring to Flores’ refusal to pick up the tab for the event. “It’s enough.”

Hofschneider said they are looking at the option of operating a casino or other gambling activities, the proceeds for which will be used to pay for Liberation Day expenditures. He said they drafted a legislation that would allow them to do something similar to the Rotary, which hosts the Las Vegas Night fundraiser.

The draft, he disclosed, has been submitted to House Speaker Eli Cabrera a year and a half ago.

“We haven’t heard back from the Speaker,” said Hofschneider. “We’re still pushing for it, maybe amend it some more and introduce it to the Legislature so the Mayor’s Office will be authorized to have the same operation that you have.”

Rotarian Ben Babauta urged Hofschneider not to call off the event. “It won’t be complete without this community event. The people will be devastated and the entire Legislature will be wiped out,” he quipped.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Henry Hofschneider, officer in charge for the Saipan Mayor’s Office, talks about their projects and programs during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Car, cash prizes at stake in Rotary’s Las Vegas Night

»Volunteers sought for July fundraiser

CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More cash prizes are at stake for the lucky winners in the Las Vegas Night, Rotary Club of Saipan’s annual fundraising event slated for July 14, from 7pm to midnight, at the Saipan World Resort’s Royal Taga Ballroom.

Rotary secretary Laila Y. Boyer said yesterday that ticket holders will have a chance to win $3,000, $2,000, $1,000, and $500. The grand prize, Boyer said, is a choice between $10,000 or a brand new 2012 Hyundai Accent GLS.

Tickets to the Las Vegas Night cost $5 each or $20 per booklet. This year, Rotary decided to give more incentives to ticket buyers by having six tickets per booklet, said Boyer.

There will also be other exciting games and activities like Best in Costume, in relation to this year’s theme, Stars and Stripes.

“We’re really going to have a lot of fun for the Las Vegas Night,” said Boyer, adding that the event is scheduled on the week of government payday.

Boyer disclosed that they are now awaiting their Las Vegas Night permit and she recognized Rotarians Yosh Gabaldon and Glen Perez for putting in order the paperwork.

The Rotary is also on the lookout for more volunteers to serve as dealers and cashiers at the event.

With the tickets to be distributed within the week, Rotarians will have a little over a month to sell them. “We need to really push for sales,” Boyer said.

Proceeds from this year’s Las Vegas Night are earmarked for Rotary’s Kagman children’s park project.

To volunteer, purchase a ticket or for more information, email saipanrotary@gmail.com.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2547

ANNOUNCEMENT
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
SUMMER PROGRAM GRANT

May 15, 2012

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for your organization to participate in a Summer Program Grant. The grant is open to all community-base programs offering Summer Programs or activities to all school aged children between the ages 6 years to 13 years old. Eligible proposals may receive up to $20,000.00. For this grant, a total of 4 awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. All funds related to this grant must be expended no later than September 30, 2012.

CCDF Summer Program Application packets maybe picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund Office, Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Completed Applications should be submitted in the same address on or before Monday, June 18, 2012 at 12:00pm. Faxed and emailed proposals will not be reviewed.

Should you have any questions regarding this announcement please do not hesitate to contact Vince Rabauliman, CCDF Administrative Manager or Maribel S.D. Loste, CCDF Program Administrator at 664-2575.

Approved for distribution:
/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
Secretary, DCCA
Date: May 15, 2012

Graduating scholars reminded of their duty

The CNMI Scholarship Office congratulates all new graduates at the Northern Marianas College and in the U.S. mainland and wishes to remind all recipients who received scholarship assistance of their service obligation to the Commonwealth.

The incurred service obligation is generally "one-for-one" for every service-paid year of schooling. For every one year of study for which the scholar received support, s/he is expected to work for the Commonwealth for each year scholarship funds were received or risk repaying the amount received back to the government.

According to the regulations governing the CNMI Scholarship program, all recipients are required to return to the CNMI no later than three months after the completion of their degree program. In case scholars breach this contractual obligation, all financial assistance extended to the scholar shall be repaid in full or in monthly installments.

Ultimately, failure to serve the Commonwealth or not make monthly payments constitutes a breach of contractual obligations and places the scholar in default. Repayment and obligatory service may be deferred for those pursuing postgraduate degrees, upon a showing of good cause and supporting documents.

While the service obligation is attached to the scholarship as a means of "paying back," the intent is to provide all scholarship recipients an opportunity to establish a sense of social responsibility for the Commonwealth. In agreeing to receive scholarship funding, all scholarship recipients entered into with a firm willingness to serve the island community.

Although the ultimate responsibility for seeking a job is the CNMI Scholarship recipient's, the CNMI Scholarship Office staff is available to assist with and facilitate job placement for interested graduates. The office, in partnership with several public and private sector agencies, will work to place CNMI scholars in appropriate jobs. In the coming weeks, graduates will receive an itemization of total awards received, repayment instructions, a notice of job opportunities, and customized matching vacancies that is tailored to each scholar's field of study.

In a dual effort to reverse the brain drain and build local workforce capacity in the CNMI, the CNMI Scholarship Office's purpose has evolved and become twofold: to increase the number of students in college, and get them back to serving the Commonwealth.

The Placement Program was created in January 2012. One of the main objectives of this new program is to develop a network of partnerships and coordinate placement opportunities for graduates. To achieve this goal of preparing the waters of the NMI's labor pool, the CNMI Scholarship Office seeks the commitment of its partners that scholarship recipients will be, upon successful completion of their studies, allocated in jobs contributing to their most efficient use in the economy and/or public administration. As such, the office is calling on all potential partners in the private and local workforce if they are interested in serving as placement sites. The office also advises all interested graduating scholars to visit or get in contact with the office for more information about repayment instructions and job placement opportunities. Email cnmieap@cnmischolarship.com for more information. ***(Office of the Governor)***

NMPASI hosts course in dignity and respect

A select group of people representing 13 organizations successfully completed last week a weeklong trainer certification course in The MANDT System of conflict resolution/physical restraint procedures. NMPASI facilitated the training at a cost of about $25,000.

According to NMPASI executive director Jim Rayphand, "Congressman Kilili secured funding with OIA and offered NMPASI the opportunity to submit for some of it. Through his support, we were awarded $25,000 specifically to facilitate the MANDT train-the-trainer course and, as we always should with federal grant funds, we spent the money accordingly."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants complete a weeklong trainer certification course in The MANDT System of conflict resolution/physical restraint procedures. NMPASI facilitated the training.

The MANDT system is a unique training program designed to effectively and safely deal with people by using a system of graded alternatives intended to protect all individuals from injury by using the least restrictive options.

"Like NMPASI, the MANDT System teaches that all people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect; that all individuals should be seen as people first; and that everyone is entitled to a personal identity and the least restrictive, most appropriate environment," said Rayphand.

"Ultimately, we hope that each of the newly certified trainers will be able to carry the people-first message into their respective agencies and throughout the community as a whole. Can you imagine how it might feel if everyone you met treated you with dignity and respect?"

NMPASI is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 with a mission to protect the civil, legal and human interests of individuals with disabilities. For more, NMPASI can be reached at (670) 235-727/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or online at www.nmpasi.org. ***(NMPASI)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Rudy JR. Seman Kaipat! We love you so much.

Fisherman who died off A. Samoa identified

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—The U.S. Coast Guard has confirmed the identity of a Filipino fisherman who died in an accident on an American Samoa-based fishing boat.

The Coast Guard says 40-year-old Manolito Galvez of the Philippines died in the accident two weeks ago when the Pago Pago-based MV Carol Linda was about 700 miles (1,125 kilometers) north of the U.S. territory's main island of Tutulia.

Lt. Steven Caskey says the initial report received by the Coast Guard is that the main mast that holds up the boom broke in half and fell on crewmembers. Another fisherman from the Philippines suffered a broken leg.

The boat's local agent, K.S. Shipping, couldn't be reached for comment.

The Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration are investigating.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 23, 2000

CDA expects delinquency rate to exceed 15%

The Commonwealth Development Authority is expecting the delinquency rate for the month of April to exceed the 15 percent registered during the first three months of the year due to the persistently slow rally of the local economy. "The delinquency rate for the month of April is very high because most clients are not paying in their regular monthly obligation," said CDA Executive Director Marylou S. Ada in an interview. Ms. Ada said the anticipated increase in the delinquency rate is a result of the ongoing discussions with existing borrowers who have been asking CDA for a reduction in monthly amortization because of low investment turnout.

Legislators, govt hold budget talks

Lawmakers and administration officials are still holding talks on the FY 2000 budget package approved recently by the Legislature in hopes to bridge differences before the deadline expires for Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's signature. A meeting is scheduled to be held today between House leaders and Mike S. Sablan, special advisor for finance and budget, and Edward S. Tenorio, special assistant for management and budget, to further discuss a possible compromise. The governor earlier has expressed concern over some administrative provisions of the budget bill that legislators passed last May 11, but he did not provide details.

May 23, 2001

SGMA reports inspection findings to OSHA

A top official of US Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is visiting the island to discuss workplace issues with leaders of the Saipan garment manufacturing industry. OSHA Region IX Deputy Administrator Christopher Lee met Friday with SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce and Excellence 2000 Partnership Committee members Joe Salas and Patricia Concepcion at SGMA's Gualo Rai office. In the meeting, Mr. Lee was presented progress reports on the inspections the committee recently conducted at all 23 Excellence 2000 partner factories.

House gives Teno authority to reprogram funding allocation

The House of Representatives yesterday gave Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio additional power to reprogram funds guaranteed under Public Law 11-119 to expedite the renovation of the old Adult Corrections building in Susupe. House Bill 12-389, aimed at amending PL 11-119 Section 7, gives the governor the needed flexibility to appropriate funds generated by the Commonwealth Development Authority to finance Capital Improvement Projects. Introduced by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, HB 12-389 authorizes Mr. Tenorio to reprogram $218,000 from the CIP funds to proceed with the renovation of the Adult Corrections.

May 23, 2002

Heinz: $2M for Tinian is really no loss

Politics aside, the allocation of the $2 million Compact Impact payments to the Tinian High School is no loss since the money is going into education—one of the priorities identified by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation in the allocation of the Compact Impact funds. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider stressed this point, adding that, if the money goes toward educating the children on Tinian, they will, in turn, contribute to the welfare of the Commonwealth as a whole. Hofschneider said, however, that one can also make the argument that using the money to finish the Tinian High School may be inappropriate, as one can also look at other sources of money to accomplish the same objective, such as the Capital Improvement Program funds, which are geared more toward these types of projects.

Former NMIRF official sues Outrigger

Former Retirement Fund board member Charles P. Reyes is suing the Outrigger Guam Resort for negligence in connection with a 2000 bathroom mishap that reportedly left Reyes severely injured. The plaintiff, through counsel Edward C. Arriola, initiated a $74,950-civil action suit against the Outrigger Guam L.P. before the Superior Court, blaming the latter for allegedly being "reckless, careless and negligent in permitting dangerous conditions to exist" under its establishment. According to court documents, Reyes slipped inside the Tumon-based hotel's bathroom while showering in May 2000. The plaintiff said he fell violently and with great force on the corner of the bathtub and suffered severe injuries to the elbow, shoulders and head.

Marines, sailors visit patients at Guam Memorial Hospital

By LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MARINE FORCES PACIFIC (FWD) GUAM AND CNMI
Volunteers have their picture taken with one of the long-term care patients at Guam Memorial Hospital's Skilled Nursing Unit in Barrigada Heights Friday.

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—A convoy of vehicles traveled through the streets of Guam as Marines and sailors who are currently part of Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 visited long-term care patients at Guam Memorial Hospital's Skilled Nursing Unit in Barrigada Heights Friday.

The Skilled Nursing Unit health care providers spend the majority of time caring for patients currently undergoing rehabilitation to be able to eventually leave the facility. The volunteers were happy to spend time with those patients who may not get to see friends or family often.

After being given a brief tour of the hospital, volunteers were taken to the lunch room where they were supplied with balloons and arts and craft supplies.

Patients were brought in by the nurses and were swiftly carried into conversation by the eager volunteers. Patients and volunteers smiled throughout the room as every person could be seen occupied with some form of entertainment.

Some volunteers sat with the patients and drew in coloring books, passed around balloons and shared photos on their cell phones. Others sat down and took photos with the patients or just talked with individual patients.

While the majority of the patients are from Guam, one particular individual kept Marines and sailors around him at all times during the visit with his stories of days past.

"I love being a part of these visits," said Wolfgang M. Schwartzenweintraub, a U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy veteran. "I just want you all to appreciate what you get to do."

Along with tales of his past experiences and life challenges, Schwartzenweintraub spoke of future plans with his wife, sometimes serious and sometimes joking. "I've experienced a lot of things in my life, I'm happy for it and I'm willing to share it with anyone."

After visiting hours were over, patients were taken back to their daily lives and the volunteers went upstairs to attend an award ceremony, honoring Nurses Day and Hospital Week.

Volunteers also received honorable mention during the ceremony for their kindness and selflessness in spending time with a group of people they have never met before, but would now be an everlasting memory.

"I just wanted to salute and give thanks to all the people who come here to SNU and give us the support they do," said Sally K. Quichocho, SNU registered nurse.

Public library opens summer computer program

The Information Technology Center at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library will be offering a new computer and technology learning class throughout this summer as part of the library's annual signature Summer Literacy Program.

Think about what it takes to make it in the career world. Have you ever wondered what it is like to work in an office? Do you have what it takes to become marketable and competitive in today's digitally-driven workplace? Want to improve your technology skills so that you can be employed as a young emerging professional or to get that second job to earn that additional income as a retiree?

Similar to a mock office experience, the classes involve applying computer skills in an office environment, such as file sharing, emailing files in the proper format, and having software version awareness that would enable a participant to understand how and why proper file formats are important. Classes will also include office scenarios where a participant will cover some basic skills in the use of office hardware like printers, copiers, and scanners. Another important aspect of the classes is performing actual office presentations that include setting up a projector, developing the presentation file, and document handouts, and team building involved when working with coworkers on a presentation. This class is in addition to the regular free Saturday computer classes year-round.

A registration fee of $10 is required to save a slot of one class at two hours per day for four days total. The maximum 16 seats are available per class based on a first-pay, first-serve basis. Two classes are held each day with Class 1 from 12pm to 2:00pm and Class 2 from 3pm to 5pm. Registration is ongoing at the JKPL Information Technology Center. No refunds if you are unable to attend.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS

- You must have a library card with no pending library fines.
- English: oral, reading, and writing.
- Minimal typing/computer experience.
- Age range: junior high to adults.

For more information, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe, call Roy or Joey at 235-7312 or 7322, fax 235-7550, or log on to the library's website at www.cnmilibrary.com.

Regular library hours are 10am to 6pm (Tuesday-Friday), 9am to 4pm (Saturday), and closed on Sunday, Monday, and holidays. ***(JKPL)***

GUAM BRIEFS

Navy mourns death of USS *Frank Cable* sailor

SANTA RITA, Guam—A sailor assigned to USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) died May 19 during an incident at Haputo Beach on U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam. Navy Diver 3rd Class Ryan Bennett, 20, of Marysville, Penn., is survived by his parents. The cause of death is pending the results of an autopsy. The Navy is conducting an investigation. ***(PR)***

Navy Pacific Fleet Band to perform at Chamorro Village

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy Pacific Fleet Band is scheduled to perform during the weekly night market at Chamorro Village in Hagatna today, May 23, from 5pm to 7pm. The performance is free and open to the public. Under the operational control of the Commander, United States Pacific Fleet, the Pacific Fleet Band is dedicated to providing top quality music and entertainment in support of the U.S. Navy's retention and recruiting programs, and for internal and external public relations. The band, based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is comprised of musicians who combine their talents to entertain audiences in Hawaii and around the world. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-016

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

Meter Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power (Transmission and Distribution) Division Manager or his/her designee. Installs or assists install customer meters to ensure billing of services received. Performs or assists in meter testing; replaces damaged meters with new meters. Performs or assists in disconnections and reconnections of services; disconnects tampered accounts. Performs verifications to ensure meters are functioning properly. Delivers delinquency notices to customers with no addresses. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Power (T&D) Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $23,465.00 to $28,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

POSITIONS: Three (3).

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Four years of work experience; related work experience is preferred. Knowledge of: Meters; Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Installing and replacing meters; Disconnecting and reconnecting meters; Identifying illegal connections; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a CNMI or U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012 Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

JVA No. 12-017 for Power (T&D) Division, Saipan; Position(s): One (1).
JVA No. 12-018 for Wastewater Division, Saipan; Position(s) : One (1).

Administrative Support Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power (Transmission and Distribution) Division Manager or his/her designee. Drafts a variety of documents such as memorandums, correspondence, reports, and schedules. Performs routine clerical support duties to include: preparing certifications; maintaining databases; performing data entry; filing; faxing; copying; routing documents and information; separating and sorting documents; uploading and downloading routes; restocking supplies; scheduling appointments; and, typing. Explains CUC and departmental policies and procedures. Coordinates supervisor's schedule and screens/responds to supervisor's routine messages. Collects, receives, processes, sorts, and distributes a variety of correspondence, documents, deliveries, and mail. Responds to requests for information and provides assistance with completing departmental paperwork; resolves customer complaints. Compiles, reviews and processes timecards. Attends and takes minutes at meetings; gathers and organizes information to be discussed on the agenda. Makes and coordinates travel arrangements. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: See Above.
SALARY: $13,625.00 to $17,713.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Associates Degree in related field is preferred. Four years of related work experience and proven experience in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Phone etiquette; Modern office procedures, methods, and equipment; Basic filing and record keeping principles. Skill in: Providing customer service; Preparing reports; Prioritizing work; Providing customer service; Alphabetizing and filing; Keyboarding; Using modern office equipment; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a CNMI or U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-019

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

Warehouse Assistant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Warehouse Manager or his/her designee. Prepares materials for issuing against a pick list; ensures correctness of materials. Prepares, packs and delivers requested materials to respective divisions. Verifies quantities and quality of materials received against shipping documents. Prepares receiving documents on returned, salvaged or scraped materials; stacks materials in designated areas. Maintains warehouse and surrounding areas ensuring orderliness of worksite. Conducts monthly inventory counts and spot checks. Conducts year-end physical inventory of all inventory stock materials. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

Salary: $11,036.00 per annum.

Position: One.

Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED or ABE. Experience in a related field preferred. Knowledge of: Office machines; Basic mathematics; Safety procedures. Skills in: Operating office equipment; Operating warehouse equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license. Must be able to obtain: Forklift Certification.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mission creep in Yemen

As the United States finally begins to wind down its military presence in Afghanistan, is the Obama administration poised to replicate that intervention in Yemen? The administration insists it has no such plans, but it has been evident for months that it regards the Yemen-based group al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula as the most dangerous incubator of terrorist plots directed at America. And it is acting on that conviction.

Last week the Los Angeles Times reported that U.S. special operations troops, which were withdrawn from Yemen last year amid political turmoil in that country, have returned and are providing technical assistance to Yemeni forces. Meanwhile, at least 18 U.S. military and drone strikes have been reported against Islamist targets in Yemen since early March, a significant upsurge, and the CIA is active there. The administration also is trying to bolster Yemen's new president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, by authorizing the U.S. Treasury to freeze the assets of individuals who "threaten the peace, security and stability" of Yemen.

The number of American forces in Yemen is minuscule compared with the approximately 90,000 U.S. troops now deployed in Afghanistan (23,000 of whom will be withdrawn by the end of the summer). Troubling as they are for other reasons, including the possibility of civilian casualties, drone strikes against al-Qaida insurgents are not labor-intensive. Moreover, the administration is adamant that the recent increase in U.S. activity in Yemen doesn't portend a major commitment of troops or resources. "That would not serve our long-term interests and runs counter to the desires of the Yemeni government and its people," a spokesman for the National Security Council told the Times.

Given the experience of the United States in Afghanistan, where a mission to dislodge al-Qaida and the Taliban morphed into a decade-long exercise in counterinsurgency and nation-building, it is hardly alarmist to worry that similar mission creep might occur in Yemen, especially as the U.S. becomes more invested in the Hadi government. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula isn't the only threat to the new regime. Islamic militants have established an "emirate" in southern Yemen.

No one should belittle the danger posed by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. There is clearly a need for intelligence operations such as the one that thwarted a conspiracy to construct a potentially undetectable bomb in the month before the anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death. What President Obama—or Mitt Romney, if he is elected in November—must avoid is the sort of expansive intervention that has enmeshed this country in Afghanistan.

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"I'M A REPUBLICAN AND WE BELIEVE MARRIAGE IS A SACRED BOND BETWEEN A MAN AND HOWEVER MANY WOMEN HE CAN AFFORD TO MARRY."

In Europe, time for true austerity

By VERONIQUE DE RUGY
Los Angeles Times

Veronique de Rugy is a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

For several years now, European governments have tried versions of austerity—usually understood as an attempt to reduce the ratio of government debt to gross domestic product—in hopes of reviving the continent's flailing economies. But not only have their efforts failed, we're now told, they have actually made things far worse.

According to one naysayer, former Obama administration chief economic adviser Larry Summers, austerity efforts are "counterproductive" to growth. In a recent Bloomberg TV interview, Nobel laureate and economist Paul Krugman said, "I wish I'd been wrong for the sake of the world" about his prediction that "Austerians" pushing for fiscal retrenchment would destroy Europe.

There are two basic problems with this growing anti-austerity backlash. First, where spending was actually reduced, the cuts have been relatively small compared to the size of the problem and meaningful structural reforms were seldom implemented. Second, to the extent declining Europe countries pursued austerity, it has mainly been through large tax increases. If the economies of Spain, France, Britain and other European nations are suffering, it's not because of "savage" spending cuts. It's because small spending cuts are overwhelmed by tax increases.

Consider Britain, where supposed austerity measures represent a "stunning failure of policy," according to Krugman in his *New York Times* column. In 2009, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown promised he would reform social programs and dramatically cut spending and taxes. Instead, he increased the top marginal income tax rate shortly before he left office. When David Cameron replaced him in 2010, he promised to pursue the same austerity measures. However, in 2011-12, spending increased from $1.15 trillion to $1.2 trillion, and public pensions have yet to be reformed. Instead, the government increased the capital gains tax, national insurance tax and value-added tax along with other fees and duties.

Then there are the French, who elected a Socialist president for the first time since the 1980s. French President Francois Hollande wants to replace what he calls austerity with "pro-growth" policies. But there is nothing austere about France's spending, which rose by $33.4 billion between 2009 and 2010 and an additional $29.5 billion in 2011. French public spending already equals 56 percent of GDP. Hollande's own wishful projections show total tax receipts rising from 45 percent of the economy to 47 percent in five years thanks to his plan to impose a 75 percent top marginal income tax rate for those earning more than $1.3 million and an increase in the corporate income tax. If this is pro-growth, then garlic breath is pro-romance.

If the critics of austerity can't find contemporary examples of where it's been successfully implemented, they can look at history. Research consistently shows that successful attempts to reduce government debt ratios follow a single-minded devotion to actually cutting spending rather than just talking about it.

In a 2009 paper, Harvard economists Alberto Alesina and Silvia Ardagna looked at 107 examples in developed countries over 30 years and found that successful austerity packages—defined by a reduction in debt to GDP greater than 4.5 percent after three years—resulted from making spending cuts without tax increases. They also found that this form of austerity accompanied by the "right policies" (easy monetary policy, liberalization of goods and labor markets, and other structural reforms) is more likely associated with economic expansions rather than with recessions. This makes intuitive sense: Austerity based on spending cuts signals that a country is serious about getting its fiscal house in order in a way that taxing and spending certainly does not.

On the other hand, they found that the so-called balanced approach—typically a mix of spending cuts and tax increases—is a recipe for failure. It fails to stabilize the debt, and it is more likely to cause recessionary economic contractions. And when it comes to plans such as Hollande's that would explicitly increase spending and taxes, they find little chance of either economic expansion or debt reduction.

As Britain slips back into recession, the Cameron government might want to remember that lesson. That's what Italy is doing. After years of failing to cut spending, Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti has taken steps to reform the pension system, and he recently pledged to make $5.5 billion in spending cuts over the next six months to avoid a hike of the national sales tax from 21 percent to 23 percent in October. That decision came after Italy's ministers tied the country's deepening recession to the mainly revenue-driven $38.4-billion debt package adopted in December.

If the Italians actually want to revive their economy, they—and other Europeans—should hurry past the talking stage and abandon the so-called balanced approach to their situations. They must start actually cutting spending and reforming their bloated governments. They have nothing to lose but their debt.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Honing fiscal integrity, now!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

The idea isn't necessarily to reduce the mere size and cost of the Lgislature but to clip its wild swings from enlarging government beyond what local taxpayers could afford. We must stop the parade of shallow measures often riddled with what's known as unintended consequences.

For instance, there's the establishment of the NMI Retirement Fund 32 years ago. Did legislators know that it would require an expensive building for office space and staffing? Why did legislators fail to provide seed funding for the program all these years?

It created a board that loaned scarce funds (millions of dollars) to other governmental agencies and now must deal with bankruptcy. It braved duplicating NMHC's housing program but recently scrapped it due to failure.

It also became the FDM or bombing target of shallow politicians who bloated the obligations of the program into bankruptcy. They made sure the Fund is removed from solvency. Now the irreversible mess!

One thing leads to another in the unintended expansion of an already bloated bureaucracy. This is the modus operandi of airheads that never demanded thoroughly researched materials that substantiate and articulate with reason the approval or disapproval of certain measures.

Too, common sense dictates that we can't encourage nor subscribe to the notion that for every problem we encounter, there's a need for laws setting forth establishment of more humiliating, costly, and stifling regulations. Do you really think we need laws on littering if each of us exercises citizenship responsibility by cleaning up after our mess?

In short, we need a smaller republican form of government. Let's have governmental institutions we could afford. It's in the palm of taxpayers!

■ ■ ■ ■

Authority over appropriations

Too, the NMI Constitution limits appropriation of funds to the House of Representatives. Is this authority granted the NMI Retirement Fund and MPLT? There's a dangerously similar pattern of loan, failed housing program and appropriations. Need the NMI repeat failure emanating from failed leadership in these agencies? Isn't there a constitutional instruction that MPLT invest and the interest turned over to the general fund for appropriation?

This needs critical constitutional review so neither agency could arbitrarily exercise an authority solely the purview of the House of Representatives.

■ ■ ■ ■

Smooth ride on gravy train

There's a special class of people in the NMI. They are known as public sector or government employees versus the taxpayers who pay for their salaries. The last ocular review of salary discrepancies (public vs. private employees) shows that the former makes about three dollars more than the latter.

Working for the government is supposed to be a tradeoff: You can't be fired and don't have to exert yourself, but you will receive smaller remuneration than in the private sector, where layoffs are common. Instead, government jobs are safe, secure, pressure-free—and now, amazingly lucrative! Yep! All you have to do is follow some weird and vacuous principle plus the ability to place your nose on the arse of someone who calls himself geesuzzzz.

In addition to regular compensation they also have lavish overtime benefits, pensions, health care plans, sick leave and "leave me alone" vacation period. They deteriorate at their jobs as they learn to game the system. Often, the only heavy lifting they do in two weeks' time is picking up their paychecks. That is why some of these employees walk around with arms as huge as Lou Ferrigno in the television series *Incredible Hulk.*

My experience of the public sector is one of mixed feelings. There are employees who give it their all to hone their skills so they do a better job in the timely delivery of public services. Others have learned to do "watch watching" (notice it isn't bird watching) all day long and head for the exit at the close of business. Then you have the kings and queens of absenteeism who don't report for work on Mondays, come in on Tuesdays, skip Wednesday and come back in on Thursdays to do weight lifting once more—pick up their unearned loot.

Gravy train sputters!

For all the safety and perks they receive through backbreaking taxes we pay them, something isn't right in the posh gravy train whose engine is sputtering dangerously.

It has run out of fuel. It soon would stop running but passengers have no idea or the money to refill the empty fuel tank. The taxes we've been paying have dropped severely. Passengers, all government employees, are at a loss whether to walk home in the wee hours of the morning or sleep in cabins no longer serviced by cool air-conditioning system.

After the break of dawn, passengers start discussing their future as beneficiaries under the U.S. Social Security System. It's an issue under discussion with the feds. The age requirement to retire is age 65 and the amount isn't as lucrative as the imperiled NMI Fund. Not sure of the formula how SS is computed but it's better than nothing when one reaches his or her golden years.

About half of the passengers are retirees who have no inkling what's coming down the pike. They brave questions no one can answer with certainty. But they remember the word "bankruptcy" and the looming debt cliff ahead. How do they veer off bankruptcy? Active employees won't take home as much as current retirees under SS. Be that as it may, both groups have come to realize that the gravy train has sputtered to a screeching halt. Is it just out of fuel or completely dead?

■ ■ ■ ■

Right cuts for right reasons

When city hall is broke, it mandates the elected elite to come to the table to lay out their cards. It must, among other things, resolve its long held though dangerous tradition of being the largest employer.

Difficult the predicament may be given the huge drop in revenue generation, it's time to figure out who gets cut or retained—more service cuts—including employees.

Governor Fortuno of Puerto Rico recently fired some 17,000 government employees to bring government spending down to what the territory could afford. The bureaucracy was so huge and dysfunctional it takes months to get a business license. In Hong Kong it's less than three working days.

Moreover, Governor Fortuno gave fired workers the opportunity to avail of loans to begin their own businesses. It worked and for those who succeeded, their voice is clear that they wished they had done it earlier and not depended on paycheck to paycheck from government for their livelihood. Need we rely on government to solve all our miseries?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'I want my money back'

Dear members of the Commonwealth Legislature and Lt. Gov. Inos: My name is Jose DLC Atalig, of Tinian. I would like to inform you that I will be receiving my full retirement this October. Your decision to move my contribution to Social Security will not be good for me. I want all my contribution back. How could you make a decision like that again without reaching out to every retirement members, to find out how many members will benefit from this plan and how many will not.

Haven't you taken enough from me? You cut our hours to 64 hours at a time when CUC and gas price are rising. Hiring useless legal counsels with our tax money to defend your malfunctioning system. Stop trying to do something that will not work for everyone. Give us back our contributions and let us invest our money where we would like to invest it. I don't want you to claim that you're doing something to help us because you're not. You're just killing us more.

I would agree if I can see that you're checking who can and cannot benefit and then make plans. I want all my contribution back, otherwise show us a report of how many retired members there are and how many active, how many retirees have dependents, how many are receiving widow benefits, how many are waiting to retired, and how is this moving to Social Security going to help every Retirement Fund member.

Since you're just assuming again, I am demanding that you give me back my money and let me invest it somewhere else. Not having enough for Social Security is not my responsibility to pay. I believe it is every individual member's responsibility. Because there are some members who are already members of the Social Security retirement program.

I agree with Mark Staal, don't withdrawn HB17-226 but instead amend it, because that will create a bigger problem between the government and the active members. I wouldn't be surprised if a mass of teachers resign to withdraw their money this June.

Jose DLC Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Prostate cancer: We can do better

By VIRGINIA A. MOYER
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Amid the many messages you will hear about screening for prostate cancer in the coming days, I hope these stand out most prominently: Science finds that there is at best a small potential benefit from prostate cancer screening and there are substantial known harms. We need a better test, and we need better treatment options. We can do better.

The panel that I chair, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, has just issued a recommendation against screening men of any age for prostate cancer using the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. The draft of this recommendation was posted for public comment in October. Since then, we have read the many comments received, reviewed newly released evidence, and arrived at this conclusion:

Many men are harmed as a result of prostate cancer screening and few, if any, benefit. The evidence shows that at most one man in 1,000 screened will avoid a prostate cancer death over the course of 10 years, and in the best and largest study done in the United States, no benefit was shown. Of the same 1,000 men screened, two to three will have a serious complication of treatment such as a blood clot, heart attack or stroke, or even death, and up to 40 will have erectile dysfunction, urinary incontinence or both. About 30 to 40 men in 1,000 will also have less serious but bothersome harms from a prostate biopsy, such as infection.

We need a better test, and we need better treatment options.

Cancer is a frightening word, but not all cancers are deadly. Prostate cancer is rarely aggressive enough to cause death within the course of a man's natural lifespan. Three-quarters of men older than 80 and a third of men between ages 40 and 60 have cancer cells in their prostate, and yet men have only a 2.8 percent lifetime risk of dying from the disease. Currently, there is no way to know which men have a cancer that may benefit from treatment.

Until we have a better test and better treatment options, the USPSTF has recommended against screening for prostate cancer. Whether or not to be screened for any condition is a decision each person must make with his or her clinician based on individual values and preferences, but we are urging all health care professionals to be forthcoming about the facts around prostate cancer risk, the relatively small benefit of detecting the cancer, and the significant known harms of screening and treatment.

To be sure, there are gaps in the existing evidence on this topic. One particular area of concern is that black men have a higher risk of developing prostate cancer and dying from it. The same is true for those with a family history of the disease. There is no evidence to suggest, however, that these men have an increased benefit from current prostates cancer screening or that the balance of benefit and harms is any different for them. We need more research to improve the health of men at high risk for prostate cancer and to eliminate health disparities.

Some critics of our recommendation have suggested that we based our decision on an urge to cut costs for insurance companies and government programs such as Medicare. Cost is not a consideration in our evaluation of the scientific evidence. Our mission is to improve the health of all Americans by sharing evidence-based recommendations with them and empowering them and the clinicians who serve them to make informed decisions.

The members of the USPSTF are human; we face the same concerns and fears about health challenges that you do. This topic is not something we take lightly, and this decision was not reached in a cavalier fashion. It is based on science and rooted in the knowledge that while we all want to help prevent deaths from prostate cancer, we need to recognize that current methods of PSA screening and treatment of screen detected cancer are not the answer.

We can do better.

Dr. Virginia A. Moyer is chair of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an independent panel of experts in prevention that reviews and makes recommendations for clinical preventive health services.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 25 to 35 mph.
▲84° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.
▲85° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

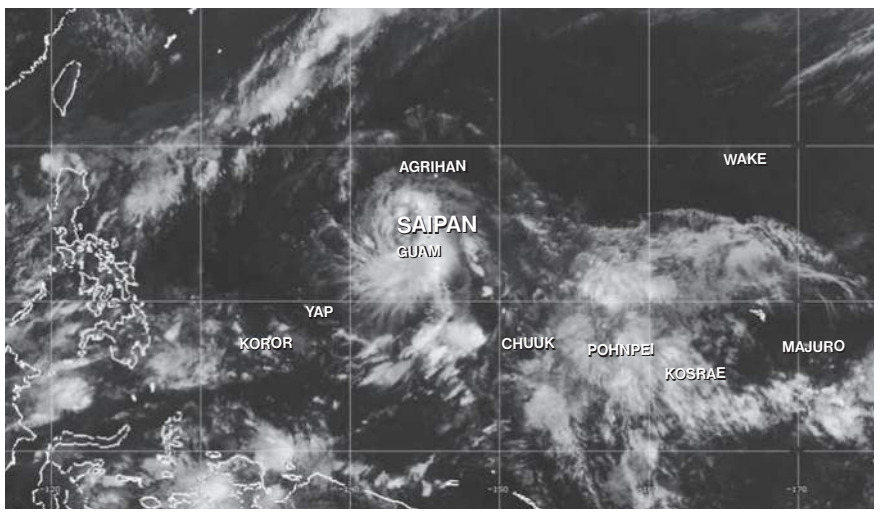
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲64	▼51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼59
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82	▼74
New York	Showers	▲73	▼62
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼59
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼62
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼62
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲55	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼58
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Washington, DC	Thunderhowers	▲79	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Sanvu 03W is centered west of Guam at 14N144E and is moving north-northwest at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Guam within 200 miles from the center of Sanvu. For more information on Tropical Storm Sanvu, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N137E to beyond 130E at 20N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 120 miles north of the front. This front is west of Iwo To island. Convergent south winds south of Guam are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 80 miles of a line from 6N140E to 8N147E to 10N147E. A surface trough extends northward between Pohnpei and Chuuk from 1N154E to 13N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found across Pohnpei state between the equator and 13N from 153E to 161E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers north of Kwajalein between 10N and 14N from 161E to 170E and just south of Kosrae and Majuro between 1N and 6N from 161E to the dateline.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:18 AM	8:33 PM
Thursday	8:09 AM	9:20 PM
Friday	9:01 AM	10:06 PM
Saturday	9:53 AM	10:49 PM
Sunday	10:45 AM	11:32 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				**SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)**			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5	UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

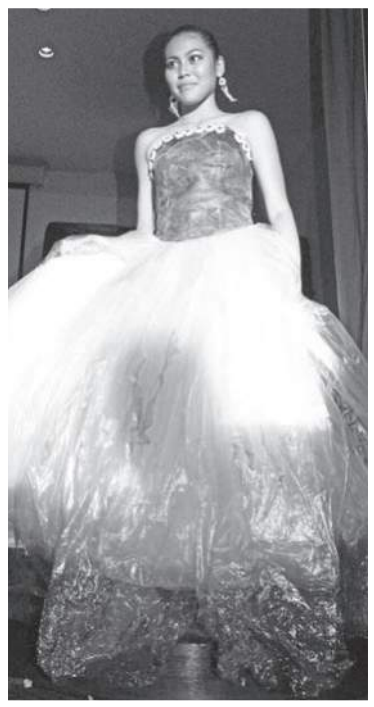
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Green Gala

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID

Northern Marianas Academy student and 2010 Liberation Queen Josifynn "Peachy" Rasa struts her recyclable creation.



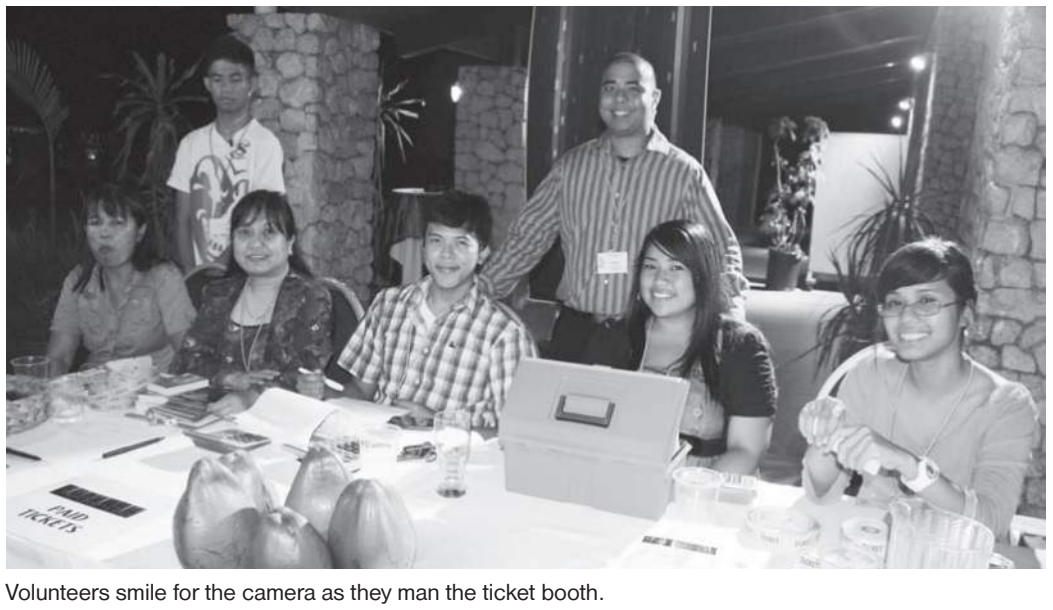
Maria Angelica Malasarte of Saipan Southern High School models her gown.

Mount Carmel School's Ann Gelika Elenzano shows off her attire made of soda can tabs.

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance board members present Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, right, the Green Company of the Year Award.

KKMP's Gary Sword checks out the various items at the silent auction.

A young lady beams as she walks the runway in her stylishly designed wardrobe.



Volunteers smile for the camera as they man the ticket booth.

Young ladies model recyclable bags as part of MINA's initiative to do away with plastic bags on island.

Business

Organizers: Don't mess with the Olympic brand

By DANICA KIRKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—One day, the small espresso shop near the site of the London Games was the "Olympic" cafe. The next day, it was the "Lympic."

So where did the "O" go?

The manager won't say. But it's more than likely the small business became another casualty in the battle against guerrilla marketers—advertisers who try to associate their products with an event without paying to be sponsors.

Protecting the Olympic brand is always a big job, and never more so than this year. Olympic organizers say the increasing sophistication of guerrilla marketers and the rise of social media are putting the five rings under assault in ways barely envisioned a decade ago.

That means action against anyone who infringes the Olympic brand or sponsors' deals—no matter how small.

"There's no question that the rings are instantly recognizable—it's what makes it attractive," said Stephen Greyser, an emeritus professor at Harvard Business School.

He compared the efforts by non-sponsors to athletes trying to find loopholes in the rules against performance-enhancing drugs.

AP

Will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas carries the Olympic Flame in Taunton, southwest England Monday May 21, 2012. The Black Eyed Peas star was cheered on by thousands of people as he ran through Taunton carrying the flame. The US-born music producer was a surprise addition to the line-up on day three of the relay.

"It becomes an industry," he said.

The International Olympic Committee and London organizers raised more than $2.4 billion from the sale of marketing rights in the four years through the 2008 games in Beijing, providing more than 44 percent of their funding during the period.

The rings are among the world's most recognized symbols. Companies like McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Samsung, which pay as much as $100 million each to be official sponsors during each Olympic cycle, expect organizers to protect their rights.

They expect organizers to protect their rights. If others can use the rings and the name "Olympic," why should the big companies pay so much money?

"Without our sponsors, the games simply wouldn't happen," London organizers said in a statement. "They provide funding, products, services and expertise to help us stage the games and with that have purchased exclusivity in their sector."

British lawmakers did their part, passing a law—described as draconian by critics—that gives organizers the power to bar companies from using Olympic trademarks and even certain combinations of words—such as "London 2012"—that may infringe on the rights of sponsors.

"Where there are serious or deliberate attempts to ambush the Games ... we will take swift and firm action," London organizers added.

But if the crackdown on guerrilla marketers goes too far, it could anger those attending the games or going about their business in London. Organizers will find it hard to tell people they can't wear their Nike T-shirt into Olympic Stadium because adidas is the sportswear partner.

"It's fine to clamp down on the threat, but where it impacts the individual, it's going to be very difficult for (London organizers) to get it right," said Hugh Tebay, a partner at Sipara, a British law firm that specializes in trademark and branding. "If public reaction is too strong, they'll have to backtrack."

Such worries played out during another big international event, the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The Bavaria brewing company outfitted some 30 Dutch women in mini-dresses in its eye-popping trademark orange for the Netherlands' opening game against Denmark. When the ringleaders were caught and authorities in Johannesburg threatened jail, Bavaria agreed to refrain from future marketing ambushes until 2022.

Market breaks losing streak, with a bit of China's help

NEW YORK (AP)—Forget Facebook. This is still Apple's stock market.

Apple—the world's most valuable company—climbed nearly 6 percent on Monday, helping propel major U.S. stock indexes to gains after a week of losses. The Standard & Poor's 500, where Apple accounts for 4 percent of the index, enjoyed its best day in nearly five weeks. The Nasdaq composite index, where Apple accounts for an even heftier 12 percent, notched its biggest gain of the year.

And it was no thanks to Facebook. The social networking giant, on its second day as a public company, plunged 11 percent to $34.03, even as the rest of the market rallied.

It was tough to pin down any surefire reason for Facebook's stock decline. It did go public during the market's worst week of the year so far, and finished Friday just 23 cents above its opening price of $38. But that didn't explain Monday's decline.

"There must have been some sober second thoughts about this," said Brian Wieser, an analyst at Pivotal Research Group who was first to come out with a "Sell" rating on Facebook's stock on Friday. He sees the stock as too expensive considering the risks associated with Facebook's brief history and unproven advertising model. His fair price, or "target price," is $30.

Apple is also no stranger to fickle investors. Its stock soared 57 percent from the end of last year through April 9, climbing to more than $636 from $405 as iPhone sales seemed unstoppable. Then it fell for most of April and May, declining to about $530 on Friday, partly because investors are worried that phone companies will grow tired of subsidizing the expensive phones to sell to customers.

But Monday's gain of $30.90 to $561.28—its second-biggest climb of the year so far—came after several analysts said they expect its iPhone business to continue to do well.

The benchmark Dow Jones industrial average rose 135.10 points, or 1.1 percent, to 12,504.48. The S&P 500 rose 20.77 points to 1,315.99, and the Nasdaq jumped 68.42 to 2,847.21.

Oil hangs below $93 as rebound buoys crude

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hung below $93 a barrel Tuesday in Asia, holding gains from the previous day as crude followed global stock markets higher.

Benchmark oil for June delivery was up 10 cents to $92.67 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose $1.09 to settle at $92.57 in New York on Monday. Brent crude for July delivery was up 10 cents at $108.91 per barrel in London.

Crude has slumped from $106 earlier this month because of signs global economic growth may slow more than expected this year. The possibility that Europe's debt crisis will cripple the continent's economy and crimp demand for oil also helped drag stock markets and commodities lower last week.

But Asian markets gained Tuesday after Wall Street perked up in its first trading session of the week. Crude traders often look to stocks as a measure of overall investor sentiment.

Some analysts say crude will likely rebound amid a slowly improving U.S. economy and strong demand from developing countries.

"Barring the worst fears of financial markets, prices are likely to recover from current levels as market fundamentals reassert themselves," National Australia Bank said in a report.

Traders are also closely watching China, where data in recent months has suggested growth in the world's second-largest crude consumer is weakening. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said over the weekend that his government is ready to make more moves to boost growth.

In other energy trading, heating oil was up 0.4 cent at $2.87 per gallon and gasoline futures was steady at $2.86 per gallon. Natural gas gained 4.1 cents at $2.65 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Economists more upbeat about job growth, housing

NEW YORK (AP)—A new survey shows economists are growing slightly more optimistic about recovery in the job and housing markets but expect other pillars of the economy to remain weak.

The National Association for Business Economists says in a report issued Monday that its forecasters expect modest growth for the remainder of the year, with the pace picking up in 2013.

Still, the 54 economists NABE surveyed expect consumer spending, business investment and gross domestic product to remain below historic norms.

The quarterly survey compiles expectations for indicators such as hiring, home construction and spending from economists at industry groups, government agencies, banks and consultancies.

The panel now expects average monthly job growth for 2012 of 188,000, up from its forecast in February for 170,000 new jobs per month in 2012. The improved outlook would lead the unemployment rate to fall to 8 percent by the end of the year, the economists said. The rate is now 8.1 percent. By the end of 2013, the unemployment rate is expected to ease further to 7.5 percent.

The NABE economists expect housing starts to rise 18 percent to 720,000 units this year and increase again to 850,000 in 2013. Residential investment is forecast to increase 8.8 percent this year; that's better than the 6.6 percent the economists predicted in February. In 2013, they now expect a 10.4 percent rise, up from 10 percent.

The outlook for light vehicle sales is also brighter, and the NABE panel now expects sales to reach 14.5 million units this year, up from their previous forecast for 14 million units. In 2013, they now expect 14.8 million light vehicles to sell, up from a forecast for 14.6 million.

On a broader level, however, the panel's forecast remains relatively bleak.

GDP, which reflects the economy's total output of goods and services, is predicted to grow just 2.4 percent this year, which is shy of the roughly 2.5 percent growth forecast by the Federal Reserve. For 2013, the panel of NABE economists expects the GDP to grow 2.8 percent.

Panelists also say consumer spending will grow 2.2 percent this year and 2.5 percent in 2013, below the historic average rate of 2.8 percent.

After-tax corporate profits are projected to rise 5 percent this year and 6.3 percent next year. The NABE economists earlier forecast 6.3 percent growth in 2012 and 7 percent in 2013. The annual average over the past 20 years is 10.2 percent.

NABE's panel now expects real spending on nonresidential structures to grow 2.9 percent, down from the 4.2 percent they forecast in February.

The panel revised its projection for industrial production upward to 4.1 percent in 2012. Panelists still expect labor productivity growth to pick up from last year's rate of 0.4 percent, rising to 1 percent in 2012 and to 1.4 percent in 2013.

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,504.48	1,315.99	2,847.21
+135.10	+20.77	+68.42
+1.09%	+1.60%	+2.46%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0149	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7658	Philippine Peso	43.2526
British Pound	0.6324	Indian Rupee	55.2792	Singapore Dollar	1.2720
Canadian Dollar	1.0203	Indonesian Rupiah	9,293.6	South Korean Won	1,169.5
Chinese Yuan	6.3323	Japanese Yen	79.2393	Swiss Franc	0.9401
Euro	0.7826	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1363	Taiwan Dollar	29.5858
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3174	Thailand Baht	31.3480

Nation

In Joplin, a senior year to remember after tornado

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

President Barack Obama does a meet and greet with the graduating class of Joplin High School before commencement exercises Monday night, May 21, 2012 in Joplin Mo.

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP)—There were tearful remembrances for lost classmates and jokes about spending their senior year in a converted department store.

But most of all for Joplin High School's Class of 2012, a chorus of rousing cheers and joyous celebrations marked their completion of high school under circumstance none of them could have envisioned just one year ago.

Monday night's graduation, which featured commencement speeches by President Barack Obama and Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, capped a senior year for the 428 members of the Class of 2012 marked by tragedy, turmoil and perseverance.

The president visited southwest Missouri the day before the anniversary of the country's deadliest single tornado in six decades. The May 22, 2011, twister killed 161 people, injured hundreds more and destroyed thousands of buildings, including Joplin High. Five other Joplin schools were also destroyed, with four more among the damaged structures.

The twister arrived hours after last year's high school graduation, forever defining the Joplin High Class of 2011 and their younger classmates as well. The tornado's victims included two Joplin High students, sophomore Lantz Hare and senior Will Norton, a school system secretary and several younger students.

"They had to grow up the night of the storm," Joplin High principal Kerry Sachetta said. "They saw things they never should have had to see."

The high school seniors who assembled Monday night at Missouri Southern State University's campus gym also encountered a label they sought both to embrace and avoid, a refrain overheard in whispers or uttered bluntly at soccer games, summer camps and national academic competitions: Here come the tornado kids from Joplin.

School officials vowed to return to class on time. They turned a vacant big-box retail store at the city's only mall into a temporary Joplin High for juniors and seniors, with freshmen and 10th-graders at another location across town. A middle school relocated to an industrial park warehouse.

"I'm proud to be a member of the Northpark Mall graduates of 2012," senior class president Chloe Hadley joked. "We have been through the unbelievable, and have become stronger and closer than ever before."

Despite the less than ideal location, Joplin students embraced their return to a school they saw as a refuge, a safe haven in a town otherwise gone awry, said Joplin High English teacher Brenda White.

"Those kids who lost something needed normalcy," she said. "And there was no real place to go. But school is a normal place."

The Joplin tornado helped tighten bonds, diminish cliques, elevate school spirit and strengthen community ties, students and teachers said. Disciplinary violations declined dramatically - with just two fights through the entire school year.

"Once we had been through (everything) this last year, people just weren't interested in a lot of the general high school nonsense," said graduating senior Derek Carter, who will attend the University of Alabama in the fall.

Carter and his classmates have been feted by celebrities, from American Idol winner David Cook's performance at the homecoming dance to pop star Katy Perry's welcome message for prom.

Ex-Rutgers student gets 30 days in webcam case

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—A former Rutgers University student who used a webcam to spy on his gay roommate was sentenced Monday to just 30 days in jail—a punishment that disappointed some activists but came as a relief to others who feared he would be made a scapegoat for his fellow freshman's suicide.

Dharun Ravi, 20, could have gotten 10 years behind bars for his part in a case that burst onto front pages when Tyler Clementi threw himself to his death off the George Washington Bridge.

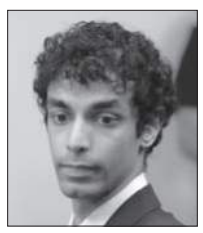
Instead, Superior Court Judge Glenn Berman gave Ravi a month in jail, placed him on three years' probation and ordered him to get counseling and pay $10,000 toward a program to help victims of hate crimes.

"Our society has every right to expect zero tolerance for intolerance," the judge said.

Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said he will appeal the sentence, calling it insufficient.

The tear-filled sentencing touched on many of the issues that made the case heart-wrenching and legally complicated: anti-gay bullying, teen suicide, hate-crime laws in the fast-changing Internet age, and the uses and abuses of technology in the hands of young people.

Ravi did not speak in court but shed tears as his mother pleaded with the judge not to send him to prison. Afterward, Ravi, his family and his lawyers left court without comment. He is expected to appeal his conviction.



Ravi

In handing down the sentence, the judge quoted an email from Clementi himself describing Ravi's conduct as "wildly inappropriate."

At the same time, Berman pointed out that Ravi was not charged in Clementi's suicide. He said Ravi has spent 20 months in "exile" since his arrest. And he suggested "hate crime" is a misnomer for what Ravi was convicted of: "I do not believe he hated Tyler Clementi."

He also said he has examined the bias intimidation laws in 39 states and found that New Jersey's is among the broadest. Most, he said, are used only to increase the sentences of people convicted of violent crimes.

The judge said he would recommend Ravi not be deported to his native India. Deportation is still a possibility, but a sentence of a year or more would have been more likely to trigger it.

Prosecutors had asked that Ravi be sent to prison; they did not say how much time he should get other than that it did not have to be the maximum. If prosecutors appeal the sentence, Ravi may not have to report to jail on May 31 as ordered.

New Jersey gay rights organization Garden State Equality expressed disappointment with the punishment. In a statement, chairman Steven Goldstein suggested that while the maximum would have been an act of "vengeance," 30 days was too light.

"This was not merely a childhood prank gone awry," Goldstein said.

Bill Dobbs, a New York gay rights activist who has long argued that hate-crime laws can be dangerous, said he believes the judge gave a short sentence in part in response to a backlash against the prosecution that became visible in recent weeks, including at a rally last week at New Jersey's Statehouse, where hundreds of people called for leniency.

"Law and order cannot solve social problems," he said. "If you put too much pressure on one person, you can crush someone on the receiving end."

Man survives 180-foot plunge over Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—A man survived a plunge of at least 180 feet over Niagara Falls in an apparent suicide attempt Monday—only the third person known to have lived after going over the falls without a safety device.

Niagara Parks Police said witnesses reported seeing the man climb over a railing 20 to 30 feet out over the Horseshoe Falls at 10:20 a.m. and "deliberately jump" into the Niagara River. Seriously injured, he surfaced in the lower Niagara River basin near the Journey Behind the Falls observation platform and managed to make it to shore on his own.

"He waded ashore," said Platoon Chief Dan Orescanin of the Niagara Falls, Ontario, Fire Department. "He must have gotten swept into an eddy, floated over there and was able to get out on his own.

"That's another stroke of luck," Orescanin said. "If he was in the main current, he would have been swept down river."

Orescanin said the man was conscious and talking at first but got quiet. He appeared to have chest injuries, including broken ribs and a collapsed lung, Orescanin said.

The man was airlifted to Hamilton General Hospital with what police initially said were life-threatening injuries. Hospital spokeswoman Agnes Bongers said later that the man was critically injured but was expected to survive.

Authorities did not release the man's name.

Horseshoe Falls, on the Canadian side of the river, is the tallest of the three main falls, higher than the American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls.

The man, believed to be in his 30s or 40s, was rescued about two hours later after fire department rescuers rappelled down the steep and rocky gorge and pulled him in a basket back up the cliff.

"It was very difficult. Between the shale and the boulders, and everything is wet and slick. It's slimy," Orescanin said.

About seven rescuers struggled to carry the basket up to a point where it could be lifted with ropes suspended from an aerial truck.

"We had to basically hand carry him back up, a foot at a time, up the rope," the chief said.

The rescue came weeks before daredevil Nik Wallenda plans to walk over Niagara Falls on a tightrope after convincing United States and Canadian officials to grant an exception to laws prohibiting stunting.

Although several daredevils have survived trips over the falls in barrels or other contraptions, beginning with Annie Edison Taylor in 1901, few have survived unprotected. In 1960, 7-year-old Roger Woodward was swept over the falls wearing a life jacket and survived.

Authorities don't believe Monday's plunge, on a warm and sunny Victoria Day holiday in Canada, was a stunt.

"Based on witness statements and surveillance video, it doesn't appear in any way, shape, or form that this was anything other than a suicide attempt," Niagara Parks Police Sgt. Chris Gallagher told WIVB in Buffalo.

More than 6 million cubic feet of water go over the brink of the falls every minute during peak daytime tourist hours, according to the Niagara Parks Commission.

The last person to go over the falls unaided and live was a 30-year-old Canadian man in March 2009. In October 2003, Kirk Jones, an out-of-work auto parts salesman from Michigan survived his plunge over the falls.

After getting the call Monday, rescuers didn't immediately know whether the man at the bottom of the gorge had gone over the brink or entered the water at the base.

"When we heard that he had gone over the falls we were shocked," Orescanin said.

World

96 Yemeni soldiers killed in suicide bombing

By AHMED AL-HAJ and MAGGIE MICHAEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A Yemeni soldier detonated a bomb hidden in his military uniform during a rehearsal for a military parade, killing 96 fellow soldiers and wounding at least 200 on Monday in one of the deadliest attacks in the capital in years.

Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen claimed responsibility, saying in an emailed statement that the suicide attack was intended to avenge a U.S.-backed offensive against al-Qaida in a swath of southern Yemen seized by the militant movement last year.

The bombing left a scene of carnage, with scores of bleeding soldiers lying on the ground as ambulances rushed to the scene. Several severed heads were on the pavement amid large pools of blood and human remains.

"This is a real massacre," said Ahmed Sobhi, one of the soldiers who witnessed the blast. "This is unbelievable. I am still shaking. The place turned into hell. I thought this only happens in movies."

Al-Qaida said the bomber was targeting Yemen's defense minister, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, who had arrived at the heavily secured city square to greet the assembled troops just minutes before the blast ripped through the area. He was unhurt.

Khaled Ali, another soldier, said the explosion was followed by heavy gunfire.

"In the mayhem, we were all running in all directions. I saw the guards of the minister surrounding him and forming a human cordon. They were firing in the air," he said.

The bombing comes as Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi has been pressing ahead on two difficult fronts—battling al-Qaida in the south and purging loyalists of ousted leader Ali Abdullah Saleh from military and security top posts.

Saleh stepped down in February as part of a U.S.-backed, power-transfer deal brokered by Gulf Arab countries aimed at ending political unrest in the country after a yearlong uprising. The deal gave Saleh immunity from prosecution in return for relinquishing his power.

Saleh originally appointed Ahmed to lead the defense ministry but recently has pressed from behind the scenes for his dismissal because Ahmed has been cooperating with Hadi.

Military officials said the bomber belonged to the Central Security, a paramilitary force commanded by Saleh's nephew Yahia Saleh. He detonated his explosives in the midst of the Central Security unit as it received orders to pass in front of the parade view stand where both the defense minister and the military chief of staff were sitting.

"They are playing their last cards and blackmailing the new leadership," said political analyst Abdel-Bari Taher. "This is one desperate attempt by both al-Qaida and Saleh's regime to survive."

AP

Wounded policemen are seen at a hospital following a suicide bomb attack at parade square in Sanaa, Yemen, Monday, May 21, 2012.

Shortly after the attack, Hadi demoted two of Saleh's relatives, including Yahia, from their top positions in the Central Security forces and the Interior Ministry.

A statement in Hadi's name read on state TV said, "The war on terrorism will continue until we win, whatever the sacrifices are."

"We are speeding up the restructuring of the army to bring back stability to the country, which was on a brink of all-out war," the statement said.

Soldiers who were at the site told The Associated Press that the bomber could not have been an outsider. The soldiers said their commanders selected them from different branches of the military to participate in the parade, and that they had been practicing together for a week.

The site of the attack, close to the presidential palace, had been sealed off by Republican Guard forces for the previous 24 hours in preparation for the National Day celebrations on Tuesday. No cars or pedestrians were allowed to enter. The Republican Guard is led by Saleh's son and one-time heir apparent, Ahmed Saleh.

Saleh, who ruled Yemen for some 33 years, was a key partner with the U.S., which poured in millions of dollars in aid and training to fight al-Qaida.

However, Saleh was seen as unreliable. He directed funds toward bolstering units led by family members and die-hard loyalists. He often struck deals with Islamic militants, even releasing some from prison, as a tool to play his foes off against each other.

During the 1990s, Saleh ordered integration of Yemeni Islamic militants in the army ranks after their return from the fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

In its statement Monday, al-Qaida said "our main battle is against America so don't stand as a deterrent in the way or be tools or soldiers commanded by John Brennan and the American ambassador in Sanaa," a reference to the White House's top counterterrorism adviser who visited Yemen last week.

The White House said Brennan called Yemen's president to condemn the attack and offer U.S. assistance in the investigation.

The attack came one week after the leader of al-Qaida, Ayman al-Zawahri, released an audio recording online scolding Hadi and describing him as a U.S. agent and a traitor.

World's tallest tower, the Tokyo Skytree, opens

TOKYO (AP)—The world's tallest tower and Japan's biggest new landmark, the Tokyo Skytree, opened to the public on Tuesday.

Nearly 8,000 visitors were expected to take high-speed elevators up to the observation decks of the 634-meter (2,080-foot) tower to mark its opening. Some reportedly waited in line more than a week to get the coveted tickets for a panoramic view, though Tuesday ended up being cloudy in Tokyo.

Skytree is recognized by Guinness World Records as the tallest tower, beating out the Canton Tower in China, which is 600 meters (1,968 1/2 feet).

The world's tallest structure is Dubai's Burj Khalifa, which stands 828 meters (2,717 feet). That's in a different category because it's a skyscraper, not a tower.

The Skytree will serve as a broadcast tower for television and radio, along with being a tourist attraction. It replaces the 333-meter-tall (1,092 1/2-foot-tall) Tokyo Tower—a symbol of Japan's capital since 1958—as the broadcast hub.

AP

Visitors wait in front of the entrance of the Tokyo Skytree in Tokyo, Tuesday, May 22, 2012.

WORLD BRIEFS

Obama on Afghanistan: Leave on time, no 'perfect' end

CHICAGO (AP)—President Barack Obama and leaders around the globe locked in place an Afghanistan exit path Monday that will still keep their troops fighting and dying there for two more years, acknowledging there never will be point at which they can say, "This is all done. This is perfect." Obama, presiding over a 50-nation war coalition summit in his hometown, summed up the mood by saying the Afghanistan that will be left behind will be stable enough for them to depart—essentially good enough after a decade of war—but still loaded with troubles. The war that began in the weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks will finish at the end of 2014.

Mexican army: Zetas leaders ordered killing of 49

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The army charged Monday that the top leaders of the hyper-violent Zetas drug cartel ordered underlings to leave 49 mutilated bodies in a northern Mexico town square, then had banners hung around the country denying responsibility in an effort to have their enemies blamed for the massacre. The allegation came during a news conference to present the alleged Zetas local leader detained in the killings, Daniel Jesus Elizondo Ramirez. He allegedly got orders from Zetas leaders Miguel-Angel Trevino Morales and Heriberto Lazcano to dump the bodies in the town square of Cadereyta in the border state of Nuevo Leon. The bodies with their heads, hands and feet hacked off were found May 13.

Everest weekend death toll reaches 4

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Climbers have reported seeing another body on Mount Everest, raising the death toll to four for one of the worst days ever on the world's highest mountain. Nepali mountaineering official Gyanendra Shrestha said Tuesday that the body of Chinese climber Ha Wenyi was spotted not far from where three other climbers died. They were part of what was a "traffic jam" by Everest standards — an estimated 150 climbers who rushed to use a brief window of good weather to try to reach the top Friday and Saturday. Wenyi and the other victims—German doctor Eberhard Schaaf, Nepal-born Canadian Shriya Shah and South Korean mountaineer Song Won-bin—died Saturday on their way down from the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) summit. They are believed to have suffered exhaustion and altitude sickness, Shrestha said.

Indian passenger train rams freight train; 15 die

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — A passenger train rammed into a freight train before dawn Tuesday in southern India, killing at least 15 people in the collision and fire, officials said. At least 70 people were rescued from the crash in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh state, and at least 35 were injured and taken to nearby hospitals, said Charu Sinha, a top district police official. The freight train had been stopped at the station near Penukonda when the Hampi Express slammed into it. Four coaches of the passenger train derailed when the driver applied emergency brakes on seeing the freight train on the same track, said district official Durga Das. One of the coaches caught fire, trapping many passengers. At least eight people were burned to death, Sinha said.

Legion No. 1 admits he knew of priest's kid in '05

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The head of the embattled Legion of Christ religious order has admitted to covering up news that a prominent priest had fathered a child and announced a review of all past allegations of sexual abuse against Legion priests amid a growing scandal at the order. The Rev. Alvaro Corcuera wrote a letter to all Legion members early Tuesday in which he admitted he knew before he became superior in 2005 that his most prominent priest, the Rev. Thomas Williams, had fathered a child years earlier. Corcuera acknowledged he did nothing to prevent Williams, a well-known American television personality, author and moral theologian, from teaching morality to seminarians or preaching about ethics. Williams acknowledged the child last week following an Associated Press investigation.

Focus

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

AP

This undated file photo shows artwork showing the Oregon trail in 1844. In the 19th century, Americans expanded into a physical frontier—a geographic edge of society brimming with opportunities and dangers and challenges and setbacks. Today, American expansionism is playing out vigorously at society's latest cutting edge: the social space of the Internet.

DIGITAL MANIFEST DESTINY

America expands once again—digitally, this time

NEW YORK (AP)—The metaphor is an easy one, overused and perhaps even a bit overwrought. We are forging forward into a digital frontier, leaving convention behind, traveling without guides into an uncharted virtual land where progress and profits are forever around the next bend.

Sound familiar?

In the 19th century, Americans expanded into a physical frontier—a geographic edge of society brimming with opportunities and dangers and challenges and setbacks. So began the notion of manifest destiny: the idea that, no matter what, the United States pushes outward to the farthest edge of the most distant place possible.

Today, almost two centuries after that term was coined, American expansionism is playing out vigorously at society's latest cutting edge: the social space of the Internet. Friday's high-octane, $16 billion IPO of the global juggernaut that is Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook is, for better or worse, the most recent example of how the new frontier has been cultivated, colonized and commanded by entrepreneurial Americans.

As the manufacturing economy reconfigures, you often hear the lament that "America doesn't make anything anymore." But then there's this: Most of the world's digital centers of gravity have been, and remain, American. Apple and Microsoft. Google and Yahoo. YouTube and Amazon and eBay. Facebook and Twitter and Instagram. Kickstarter. Netflix. PayPal. Akamai, the content-delivery behemoth. Intel, the internal combustion engine of the whole shebang. And for that matter, the Internet itself and the organization that regulates its domain names were both born and raised in (you guessed it) America.

A digital manifest destiny is playing out, built upon the notion that the United States' outward expansion continues apace on the virtual frontier. What the self-defined sense of American exceptionalism built in the physical world, it is now building in the digital one.

"It's a projection of American values—what international experts would call soft power," says Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project.

Look at what the digital space disseminates, he says: freedom of the press, of information and of assembly; knowledge and scientific advancement; free-market mechanisms and entrepreneurialism. "It's hard to think of a cluster of ideas and architectures that would more allow basic American cultural values to propagate," says Rainie, co-author of the new book, "Networked: The New Social Operating System."

Technological progress has always walked hand in hand with American expansion. Where would the settlement of the West have been without Robert Fulton's steamboat, Samuel F.B. Morse's work in telegraphy and, later, the inventions of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford? Not to mention the old-time data pipelines themselves—the postal system, the railroads and eventually the interstate highways?

In those cases, innovation helped drive development and physically shape the frontier; now innovation itself is the frontier. And the American tendency to glorify the inventor's spirit remains a key engine. As Alexander Graham Bell went, so goes Mark Zuckerberg.

"In this country, you're a hero if you invent something. To be an inventor in America, that's as good as being an explorer," says Julie Fenster, author of "The Spirit of Invention: The Story of the Thinkers, Creators and Dreamers who Formed Our Nation."

"The notion that `I can invent my way out of problems'—that always fueled a sense of hope and expansion in this country," she says.

That parallel between the frontiers of the road and the mind has not gone unnoticed by politicians and leaders looking to cast America's newest progress in the context of the old. President Barack Obama, speaking to Carnegie Mellon University's National Robotics Engineering Center last year, called for tech innovation this way: "That's the kind of adventurous, pioneering spirit that we need right now. That's the spirit that's given us the tools and toughness to overcome every obstacle and adapt to every circumstance."

The nation's digital innovators have been placing virtual progress into the context of American expansionism for years. Sometimes they're oblique about it, sometimes they're explicit. "There is never a reliable map for unexplored territory," wrote Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, who in 1995 likened the early Internet to the Oregon Trail. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs put it this way in 1985: "In a society where information and innovation are going to be pivotal, there really is the possibility that America can become a second-rate industrial nation if we lose the technical momentum and leadership we have now."

Manifest destiny and its first cousin, American exceptionalism, aren't popular notions everywhere. The idea of U.S. domination in everything from cultural frontiers (Hollywood) to geographic ones (outer space) can set the world on edge. Just as irritatingly to some, America's ability to occupy these spaces rests upon not only actual innovation but the oomph to amplify it on a global level—in effect, to shout the loudest in a crowded, if now virtual, room.

> *"A digital manifest destiny is playing out, built upon the notion that the United States' outward expansion continues apace on the virtual frontier."*

"Manifest destiny justifies a certain behavior. One could call it rapaciousness on one end, but someone else could call it being an entrepreneur, being a founder," says John Baick, a historian at Western New England University in Massachusetts. That reflects back upon the original manifest destiny imperative to push outward at all costs; expansion, on any frontier, can also mean overrunning the people who are already there.

What has helped this dominance along? Is it the American penchant for R&D, which fuels innovation? The rise of venture capital over the past half-century, particularly in places like Silicon Valley? Is it the combination of creativity and Barnum-style snake oil that matured into the marketing culture that helps define America today? Is it the nation's higher-education system, which has vigorously pushed the relationship between technological innovation and entrepreneurialism?

Or—and this is where it really gets interesting—is it the ability and willingness of an increasingly connected planet to adopt American innovation and take it to a global level, encouraging U.S. digital expansion in the process?

"We might look at our contributions . and fail to see that what really helped them to take off in many cases was the participation of other people globally," says Joel Kline, an internet developer and digital strategist who teaches business technology at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania.

Last year in southwestern China, long a hotbed of brand-name electronics knockoffs, a fake Apple Store turned up—an entire store. A blogger's photos depicted an elaborate lookalike operation complete with Genius Bar, hardwood floors, Helvetica-typefaced signage and sales associates in blue T-shirts who apparently actually thought they were working at the real thing.

Think about that. It wasn't enough to fake the gadgets. The counterfeiters wanted to fake the FEEL of innovation that Apple markets so adeptly. The entire process, exported by an American digital company, had been swallowed whole. It was the idea that was being sold. Something intangible, but very real—the foundation of the virtual economy.

"People say, `Oh, you've got to invest in the tangible things—land, gold and silver, other precious metals.' They're solid," says Rich Cooper, vice president for research and emerging issues at the National Chamber Foundation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's think tank.

But, he says, "In this new era of exceptionalism, you're now on an entirely different plane. You're not holding dirt. You're not holding a piece of real estate in your hands. You can't touch it and taste it. It's an entirely different medium, and that's hard for people to understand and accept."

The American frontier's most renowned historian, Frederick Jackson Turner, made his name writing about the end of it. In 1893, he proclaimed the frontier closed, finished, conquered, settled. But he hardly thought that meant the end of manifest destiny.

"He would be a rash prophet who should assert that the expansive character of American life has now entirely ceased," Turner wrote. "Movement has been its dominant fact, and, unless this training has no effect upon a people, the American energy will continually demand a wider field for its exercise."

That remains the case, even if that field is now composed of an endless stream of ones and zeroes and Zuckerbergs that, to Americans, represent the latest evidence of the old story of exceptionalism—the desire to lead the world, now from a shining SimCity upon a hill.

"People seem to think there are no other frontiers for America to explore and that America's sitting on the bench now," Cooper says. "But there are a whole set of frontiers we don't even know about yet."

Ted Anthony writes about American culture for The Associated Press. Follow him on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/anthonyted.

Campus Life

GCA student wins 2nd spot in Law Day poster contest

Euray Lim, a sixth-grade student at Grace Christian Academy, was presented with the Presiding Judge Award for winning second place in the 2012 Law Day poster contest. Lim received a Judiciary history book, a certificate of recognition, and a $50 cash prize from Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja.

"I was surprised and did not expect to win," Lim later said about her win.

There were five winners in this year's poster contest for 4th to 6th grade students. All winners received copies of the Judiciary history book and certificates of recognition. Cash prizes were given to the first, second, and third place winners.

The award ceremony was held on May 1, 2012, in the Supreme Court courtroom on Saipan. Acting Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro led other justices and judges in recognizing the awardees from different public and private schools. Castro said it was the second year they conducted the poster and essay writing contests for Law Day.

The ceremony was also attended by Superior Court Associate Judges David A. Wiseman, Kenneth L. Govendo, and Perry Inos; Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, school officials, and court staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Euray Lim receives her awards from Presiding Judge Robert Naraja. With them are GCA head teacher Susan Pajarillaga and art teacher Esther Manzano.

Sponsored by the CNMI Supreme Court with the help of Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society and Public School System, students from private and public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were invited to create a poster that celebrates the 2012 Law Day theme, "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom."

Law Day has been an annual observance in the United States since President Dwight Eisenhower established it in 1958 to mark the nation's commitment to the rule of law. Locally, the CNMI uses it to reflect upon how the rule of law serves as the foundation for the Commonwealth and contributes to the freedoms people enjoy as members of the American political family.

GCA art teacher Esther Manzano said, "It's our first time to join the Law Day poster contest and we are glad that the Commonwealth Judiciary recognized the talent of our students."

Head teacher Susan Pajarillaga said, "We are looking forward in joining again this prestigious contest and we will encourage our students in junior high to join the essay contest next school year." *(GCA)*

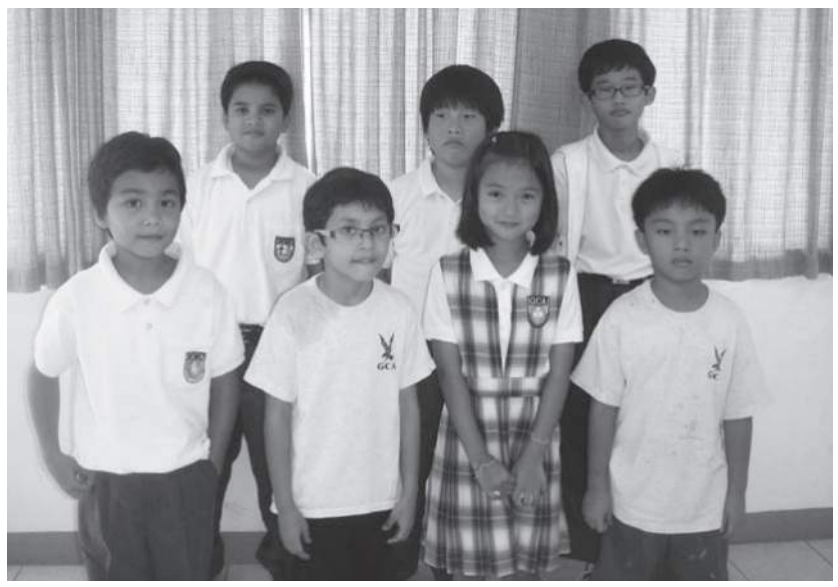
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INDUCTION RITES

The Tinian Jr./Sr. High School National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society held an induction ceremony for its new officers and members on May 16, 2012, at the school cafeteria. This photo shows the officers for SY 2011-2012. The keynote speaker for the occasion was supposed to be Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz but he was unable to attend as he was meeting with some investors. Don Farrell stood for him as the keynote speaker.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian Jr./Sr. High School National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society officers for school year 2012-2013 are presented during the induction ceremony held on May 16, 2012, at the school cafeteria.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's Mathcourt regional winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

2 medals for GCA students in Mathcourt regionals

Grace Christian Academy got two out of the 10 overall winners of the 2012 Mathcourt regional competition held on April 28 and May 5 at Dandan Elementary School.

The gold medal for 3-5 division went to GCA's 5th grade student Min Hyeok "Steven" Ha, who also won first place during the pre-regionals.

In the K-2 division, GCA 2nd grader Miku Kimura took home the bronze medal. Other students from kindergarten to fifth grade also placed third and fourth in the room rounds.

The CNMI Mathcourt Competition is a series of meets that occur throughout the school year. At each meet, several tests are offered to measure the mathematical achievement of students at every grade level and award those students showing the highest levels of mastery at each level. Over 900 kindergarten to 5th grade students competed in this school year's Mathcourt regional competition.

K-2 DIVISION

OVERALL WINNERS RESULTS

Miku Kimura, bronze medal

ROOM RESULTS

Kindergarten: Juruel Magtalas, 4th Place

First Grade: Matthew Ernest, 4th Place

Second Grade: Miku Kimura, 4th Place

James Keaton, 4th Place

3-5 DIVISION

OVERALL WINNERS RESULTS

Min Hyeok "Steven" Ha, gold medal

ROOM RESULTS

Fourth Grade: Tae Yong Kim, 3rd Place

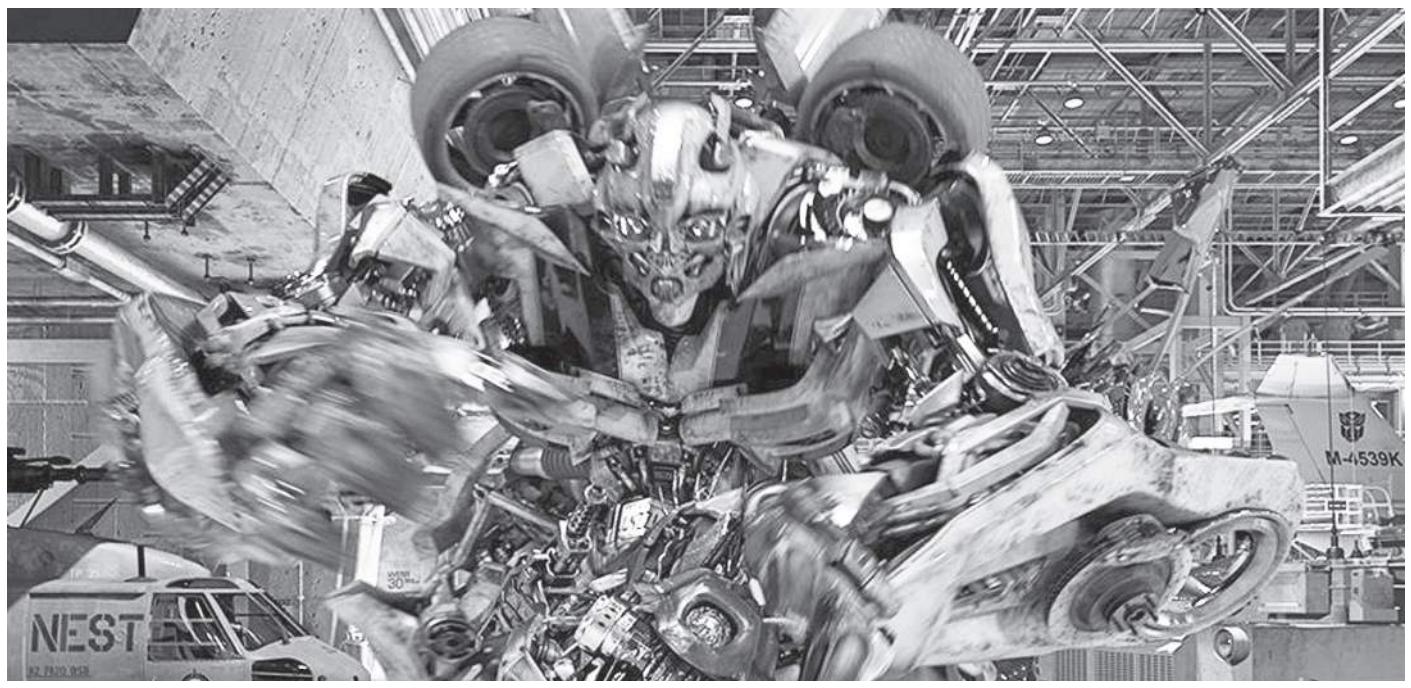
Matt Jason, 3rd Place

Fifth Grade: Min Hyeok "Steven" Ha, 1st Place

Life&Style

'Transformers' roll out in Universal Studios ride

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER



AP
In this undated image released by Universal Studios Hollywood, the character Bumblebee is displayed from the "Transformers the Ride: 3D," attraction at Universal Studios Hollywood in Los Angeles.

UNIVERSAL CITY, California (AP)—Which 'bots are in, and which are out?

That's the question the special-effects gurus at Universal Studios and Industrial Light and Magic, as well as "Transformers" director Michael Bay, first asked themselves five years ago when they started developing a $100 million theme park attraction based on the popular franchise. Much like the robots themselves, the answer changed shape.

"We knew we had to have Optimus Prime, Bumblebee and Megatron," said Universal Studios producer Chick Russell. "Beyond those characters, we didn't want it to feel like everyone else was just making a cameo. We wanted each character to feel like they were contributing to the attraction. It's four minutes. You don't have a lot of time to introduce characters."

When designers originally envisioned "Transformers: The Ride—3D," which debuts Friday at Universal Studios Hollywood and opened in December at Universal Studios Singapore, their first inclination was to build life-size versions of the famous 'bots, but Russell said they quickly learned that even the most sophisticated animatronics wouldn't do the trick.

"We realized early in the process that we couldn't get them to do the things we wanted them to do fast or realistic enough to match the excitement of the Bay films," said Russell. "We instead decided to go with a multimedia approach and match 3-D footage with intricate set work, so it doesn't feel like you're just going from screen to screen to screen."

The attraction puts riders inside a 12-person vehicle designed to look like a nimble new Transformer named Evac, who goes on a breakneck chase from the headquarters of the top-secret NEST agency through city streets, across rooftops and even inside an office building on the hunt for a missing shard of the AllSpark, the powerful Transformers artifact.

The action is digitally projected on 14 screens among real-world sets that the ride vehicles move into and past, mixing computer-generated fantasy with reality. For example, at the beginning of the ride inside a military facility, the front half of a parked truck is real, while the other half of the vehicle that the Transformers fight atop is on screen.

Jeff White, the visual effects supervisor from Industrial Light and Magic who worked on both the films and the attraction, said designers created the footage in 4K resolution, which has quadruple the number of pixels found on most screens, and used photographs of the actual Chicago cityscape to craft the virtual urban terrain where the robots battle.

One of the attraction's most spectacular effects is the least explosive. At one point, during a calm moment in the villainous Decepticons' assault on the heroic Autobots, hulking Autobot leader Optimus Prime (voiced by Peter Cullen in both the films and the attraction) kneels down to address the riders, coming closer to the audience than ever before.

"Originally, that was going to be a physical build, but we couldn't quite work out the animation with something practical," said White. "That whole scene was changed over to a screen, and what was great about that is more so than ever before in any of the movies, people can feel what it's like for Optimus Prime to come right up and talk to them."

White said the designers pushed Optimus' face as closely as possible into riders' perspectives without the robot general's noggin appearing blurry or distorted. The effect meant that ILM had to create more 3-D animations and textures for Optimus' mechanized eyes, mouth and other facial features than what's usually required in the "Transformers" films.

The ride's footage was crafted by ILM at the same time they did effects for the "Transformers" sequels "Revenge of the Fallen" and "Dark of the Moon," which allowed the designers to include new additions like Bumblebee's gun-toting hybrid mode and hulking baddie Devastator, who sucks up everything in his path in Egypt at the end of "Revenge of the Fallen."

While the Singapore and Hollywood versions of the ride are nearly identical, the one inside a two-story building on the Hollywood back lot of Universal Studios, owned by Comcast Corp., uses Dolby 3D, the newest version of 3-D projection. Russell said there are no plans—for now—to bring the ride to other theme parks.

Ultimately, "Transformers" mastermind Bay and the ride's designers are featuring 13 different characters from the "Transformers" movies in the ride, as well as new 'bot Evac and human General Morshower, who pops up in videos broadcast in the ride's waiting area. (And, of course, there are Evac action figures for sale in the gift shop outside the attraction.)

Bay is set to helm a fourth "Transformers" film, which Paramount Pictures announced earlier this year would be released in 2014. White said there wasn't any discussion about the Transformers' next movie adventure when creating the ride. He noted the ILM designers set out to create an attraction that could "withstand the test of time" outside of the films.

"Typically, we make a movie, and then it disappears from the public consciousness," said White. "Here is something that people could perhaps go and experience for 10, 20 or 30 years, so we really tried to make sure that it was its own encapsulated story but also that the visuals were of a high enough level that it wouldn't show its age in 10 years."

Garcelle Beauvais writing children's book series

Beauvais

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Garcelle Beauvais is planning to share life lessons through a series of children's books.

A statement released Monday says the "Franklin & Bash" star has an agreement with Stranger Comics for three books that will "address identity issues relevant to many children today."

The series will be called "I Am." The first book, "I Am Mixed" with co-author Sebastian A. Jones, is coming out this fall. It will tell of a brother and sister and their mixed ethnicities.

A second book will be about children of divorce. Beauvais' parents were divorced, and she has been married twice.

The Haiti-born actress and mother of three is known for her roles on "The Jamie Foxx Show" and "NYPD Blue."

Court won't reduce student's music download fine

BOSTON (AP)—A former Boston University student who was ordered to pay $675,000 for illegally downloading and sharing 30 songs on the Internet says he will continue fighting the penalty, despite the Supreme Court's refusal Monday to hear his appeal.

Joel Tenenbaum, 28, of Providence, Rhode Island, said he's hoping a federal judge will reduce the amount.

"I can't believe the system would uphold a six-figure damages amount for downloading 30 songs on a file-sharing system that everybody used," Tenenbaum said. "I can't believe the court would uphold something that ludicrous."

A jury in 2009 ordered Tenenbaum to pay $675,000, or $22,500 per song, after the Recording Industry Association of America sued him on behalf of four record labels, including Sony BMG Music Entertainment and Warner Brothers Records Inc. A federal judge called the penalty unconstitutionally excessive and reduced the award to $67,500, but the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals later reinstated it.

The 1st Circuit said a new judge assigned to the case could reduce the award again, but the record labels would then be entitled to a new trial.

Tenenbaum

Tenenbaum, who said he just graduated Sunday from the university with a doctorate in statistical physics, said he doesn't have the money to pay the judgment.

"I've been working on a graduate student's stipend for six years now and I have no such money," he said.

Tenenbaum argued that the U.S. Copyright Act is unconstitutional and that Congress did not intend the law to impose liability or damages when the copyright infringements amount to "consumer copying."

During the trial, Tenenbaum admitted he downloaded and shared hundreds of songs by Green Day, Nirvana, The Smashing Pumpkins and others. His lawyer suggested the damages should be as little as 99 cents per song, about the same amount Tenenbaum would have to pay for a legal online song purchase.

Lawyers for the recording industry argued that illegal downloading hurt the recording industry by reducing income and profits. A lawyer for the recording labels described Tenenbaum as a "hardcore" copyright infringer. The association said it offered to settle the case for $5,000 early on, but Tenenbaum declined.

"We're pleased with this decision," RIAA spokeswoman Cara Duckworth said after the Supreme Court's announcement Monday.

In the only other music-downloading case against an individual to go to trial, a judge last year reduced the penalty imposed on a Minnesota woman from $1.5 million to $54,000. An appeals court has scheduled arguments for next month in the case of Jammie Thomas-Rasset.

Century Tours is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

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Gibb matriarch loses third son with Robin's death

By GREGORY KATZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
In this July 31, 1978, file photo, the British pop group the Bee Gees, from left, Robin Gibb, Barry Gibb and Maurice Gibb, pose for photographers, in Los Angeles.

LONDON (AP)—Her sons were blessed with musical gifts that brought riches and fame. On Monday, Barbara Gibb was living a parent's ultimate nightmare—preparing, for the third time, to lay a child to rest.

Her son Robin Gibb—a Bee Gees founder known for his astonishing vocals and songwriting skills—died Sunday after a long battle with cancer at the age of 62.

Earlier, she had lost her sons Andy Gibb, a pop idol who died in 1988 at age 30 from a heart ailment, and Maurice Gibb, a member of the Bee Gees and Robin's twin, who died in 2003 of acute intestinal problems.

Several months before his death, Robin Gibb told a British newspaper that he sometimes wondered if the family is paying a "karmic price" for the Bee Gee's mind-blowing success. And friends of Barbara Gibb have been quoted as saying she believes the family may be cursed.

Before illness struck, the Gibb family enjoyed remarkable good fortune. The boys were raised in challenging economic circumstances but were exposed to music at an early age because their father was a bandleader and a drummer and their mother had experience as a singer.

They started singing professionally as teenagers, moving within a few short years to prominence first in Australia, then throughout the world.

But the apparent ease of this meteoric rise was followed by later tragedy.

Both Robin and Maurice—the twins—suffered debilitating intestinal problems that led to their premature deaths. Robin suffered from colon cancer and other digestive ailments. He became gaunt even before his cancer diagnosis.

Of the four boys Barbara Gibb raised in England and Australia before they became global stars, only Barry, the eldest, is still alive. She also has a daughter living in Australia who has stayed out of the public eye.

The family's place in pop history is assured, not only because of the Bee Gees' groundbreaking success during the disco era, when they helped define a totally new sound that filled dance halls throughout the world, but also with their success as songwriters and producers.

Their career began in Australia in 1963 and saw them score their first major international hits in 1966 and 1967, when their sound was influenced by the success of the Beatles, who were then topping worldwide charts.

They prospered during the disco era, long after the Beatles had broken up in acrimony, and continued to ride a show business wave for several decades afterward.

Former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr said Monday that Robin Gibb and the Bee Gees left an enduring musical legacy.

"God bless him and God bless his family," Starr said. "The Bee Gees from our era were quite important, especially the harmonies. I didn't know him that well, I knew Maurice more than the other two, but he had a great voice and they wrote great songs."

The group also wrote many hits for other stars, earning substantial royalties when their songs were performed by the likes of Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Dionne Warwick and others.

The British press has reported that Barbara Gibb, a 91-year-old who lives in California, has been in England in recent weeks as Robin's condition worsened when he suffered from pneumonia and drifted into a coma. She has made no public statements, and the family, including his widow Dwina and his children, has asked for privacy while they mourn.

Plans for a funeral or memorial service have not been announced.

'House' closes after 8 seasons of healing and pain

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

AP
In this image released by Fox, Hugh Laurie portrays Dr. Gregory House in a scene from "House, M.D." The Fox medical drama concludes its eight-season run on Monday, May 21, 2012, with a finale at 9 p.m. EDT, preceded by a one-hour retrospective.

NEW YORK (AP)—Whither Dr. Gregory House? Would the cantankerous hero of the Fox TV medical drama mend his ways or self-destruct for all time?

That was the mystery as "House" barreled to its conclusion Monday night. In a recent interview, series star Hugh Laurie had teased that House was coming to the edge of a precipice eight years in the making: "Is he gonna step forward or step back? Is it life or is it death?"

Viewers were rewarded with a satisfying answer in the one-hour finale. (Caution: Read no further if you want to preserve the surprise.)

The episode began with a typical example of House's bedside manner.

Patient: "I was in a car accident last month."

House: "I won a swimming trophy in high school. Your turn."

But this hospital encounter gave way to a House hallucination. He appeared to be in a bleak, abandoned factory loft with fire lashing around him and with that same patient, now dead, lying nearby. It was a typical example of "House" surrealism, as, intermittently through much of the hour, House debated whether to live or die while interrogated by characters from his past.

House's challenge as the episode began was how to stay out of jail. A prank he pulled on last week's episode threatened to put him in the slammer for a six-month sentence—a month longer than his best friend, Dr. James Wilson (Robert Sean Leonard), was expected to live with his terminal cancer. House was desperate to be with Wilson in those final weeks.

As everybody knows, House was a grumpy, brilliant diagnostician with a limp, a cane, buggy blue eyes and an addiction to painkillers. He was also a master manipulator. Could he hatch a successful scheme to stay free—like persuading Wilson to take the fall for his destructive prank?

"You do remember I'm dying, don't you?" Wilson responded incredulously.

"Which is why you'll never spend a day in jail," House declared. "I don't want to lose this time with you."

Wilson refused: "If I do this, I'm teaching you that your bad behavior will always be rewarded."

Meanwhile, on the finale, could House solve the puzzle of existence?

"Every patient I've had, 70 years from now, will all be as dead as Wilson," House grumbled in his hallucination. "Everybody dies. It's meaningless."

By then, House had dropped out of sight. Wilson and other colleagues at Princeton-Plainsboro Teaching Hospital feared the worst: that the tormented House had killed himself.

Indeed, a fire raged at the real-life warehouse, where House, along with his patient, a heroin addict, had retreated to get high. House appeared to die in the raging inferno. His body was recovered and identified.

A funeral was held.

"He was a healer," said Wilson in a eulogy that quickly grew bitter: "House was an ass. ... He claimed to be on some heroic quest for the truth. But the truth is, he was a bitter jerk who liked making people miserable. And he proved that by dying selfishly, numbed by narcotics, without a thought of anyone."

But then Wilson was interrupted by a cellphone text message: "SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT."

Wilson found House sitting on a building stoop, alive and—by House's standards—well. He explained he had escaped from the back of the building, and traded dental records with the patient who had overdosed, whose body was recovered.

"I'm dead, Wilson," House told his shocked friend. "How do you want to spend your last five months?"

The two were last seen out in the countryside on their motorcycles.

"When the cancer starts getting really bad —" Wilson began, but House cut him off.

"Cancer's boring," House said and flashed a little grin. They rode off.

For House, boring had always been life's least tolerable state. The finale—the series' 177th episode—served well as a reminder: "House" seldom was.

Jenkins earns two perfect scores on 'Dancing' finals

AP
In this Monday, May 7, 2012 photo, Katherin Jenkins, left, and her partner Mark Ballas perform on the celebrity dance competition series "Dancing with the Stars," in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katherine Jenkins couldn't have performed any better during the "Dancing With the Stars" finals: She earned a perfect score of 60 for her two dances on the penultimate episode of the ABC television show.

Fellow finalists William Levy and Donald Driver finished one point behind the Welsh singer Monday. The actor and the Green Bay Packer football player each collected 59 points from the judges.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which contestant will claim the title and the mirrorball trophy on Tuesday's season finale, when each finalist will perform one last routine.

The other season 14 contestants—Martina Navratilova, Gavin DeGraw, Jack Wagner, Jaleel White, Sherri Shepherd, Melissa Gilbert, Roshon Fegan, Maria Menounos and Gladys Knight—were eliminated during previous episodes.

Lady Gaga behaves, gets OK for 2nd gig in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Lady Gaga has the go-ahead to put on a second concert in the Philippines after Manila authorities decided her first show did not violate the law.

The pop diva thrilled fans at her sold-out show Monday night, but some Christians in the Philippines have been protesting her concerts and accuse her of promoting immorality.

Authorities say her second gig Tuesday night be will allowed to proceed because they found no violations of the conditions of the special permit they issued for the first concert. Pasay City Mayor Antonino Calixto says Lady Gaga did not exhibit nudity or abuse religion.

Some Christian youths called for her concerts to be banned. Catholic Archbishop Ramon Arguelles warned that her fans are in danger of falling into the clutches of Satan.

A Filipino fan of pop star Lady Gaga wears eyewear made of pins as he waits outside the concert venue before her performance in suburban Pasay, south of Manila, Philippines on Monday May 21, 2012. AP

British actor Daniel Craig, left, and French actress Berenice Marlohe, arrive for the photo call of the 23rd film in the James Bond series, 'Skyfall', in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday, April 29, 2012. AP

Bond girl takes 007 to the beach

CANNES, France (AP)—Where better than Cannes, the current epicenter of international glamor, to find a Bond girl?

Berenice Marlohe is at the film festival to introduce the "Skyfall" trailer, in which she stars alongside Daniel Craig and Naomie Harris.

The smiley French actress is also the new face of Swarovski, so she chats while picking her jewelery for the 007 event Monday, a public screening on the beach.

Marlohe says she's just excited as fans to see the finished movie: "I know the actors, I know what we've done, but I don't know what they will do with it. So I'm very curious about it."

As for what James Bond is really like, Marlohe reveals that Daniel Craig doesn't deserve his serious reputation.

"He's very, very funny," she says. "He's like a clown."

Houston's last recording released

NEW YORK (AP)—Whitney Houston's final recording is being released.

The song, "Celebrate," is a duet with Jordin Sparks from Houston's last movie, a remake of the film "Sparkle."

The song debuted Monday on Ryan Seacrest's website and will be available on iTunes June 5.

Sparks performed a tribute to Houston Sunday night at the Billboard Music Awards, singing "I Will Always Love You" as Houston's daughter Bobbi Kristina wiped away tears.

Houston's death in February at age 48 came as the singer had been attempting a comeback and had finished filming "Sparkle." She drowned in a bathtub in Beverly Hills, California. Authorities said her death was complicated by cocaine use and heart disease.

"Sparkle" opens in theaters August 17.

will.i.am of Black Eyed Peas carries Olympic torch

London (AP)—Black Eyed Peas star will.i.am has carried the Olympic flame in Britain, trotting through the western English city of Taunton to the cheers of thousands.

The 37-year old star was surprise addition to the torch relay on Monday and performed a short moonwalk as the crowd roared. He says he was thinking "Me and Michael," a reference to the late Michael Jackson, who made the dance move famous.

The star, whose real name is William Adams, says he's known for about a year that he'd carry the torch but was told not to tweet about it. But when it all started, he held his phone in the air, asking residents to follow him on Twitter.

Unlike others, his torch will not be going up for sale. Will.i.am says, "I don't eBay."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

James Salter wins lifetime short story prize

NEW YORK (AP)—James Salter, author of prize-winning books including "Dusk and Other Stories," has received a lifetime achievement award for short fiction. The PEN/Faulkner Foundation announced Monday that the 86-year-old Salter has won the 25th annual PEN/Malamud Award. Judges praised Salter for "creating sentences that spark and make stories burn." Besides "Dusk," his books include the story collection "Last Night," the novel "A Sport and a Pastime" and the memoir "Burning the Days." Salter will be given $5,000 for the PEN/Malamud prize. It's named for the late Bernard Malamud, author of "The Fixer" and "The Natural."

Polanski returns to Cannes, presents short

CANNES, France (AP)—Roman Polanski returned to the Cannes Film Festival, where he presented a short film sponsored by Prada. Before a screening of a restored version of his 1979 film "Tess," starring Nastassja Kinski, the Polish director showed the short, titled "A Therapy." It stars Ben Kingsley and Helena Bonham Carter and was created as a high-quality commercial for Prada. That was a relative disappointment for festival-goers who had been teased that Polanski would preview a new film. The festival earlier screened the documentary "Roman Polanski: A Film Memoir," which features conversations between Polanski and his friend Andrew Braunsberg about his U.S. arrest in 1977 for unlawful sex with an underage girl and his subsequent flight to France before sentencing. Polanski won the Cannes' Palme d'Or in 2002 for "The Pianist."

US. man arrested in theft of $15K Hank Jr. guitar

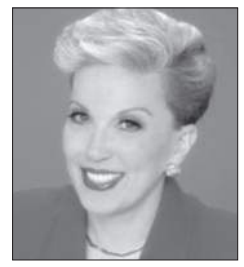
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Authorities say a man has been charged in the theft of a $15,000 guitar that belonged to Hank Williams Jr. Adam Dale Broach, of Notasulga, Alabama, was arrested Sunday by the Pike County's Sheriff's Office. Broach is charged with first-degree theft of property. An arrest report says the custom-made 1968 Les Paul guitar disappeared from Williams' cabin in the area in July 2010 and then was recovered later that month when it was given to Wayne Mills of the Wayne Mills Band as a gift during a concert in Sheffield. Few other details were available. Pike County Sheriff Russell Thomas was not immediately available for comment Monday afternoon.

Sheen's ex-wife avoids jail for now in drug case

ASPEN, Colorado (AP)—Actor Charlie Sheen's former wife has received a deferred judgment in a drug case in Aspen, Colorado, meaning her record will be cleared if she lives up to terms of a one-year probation. Brooke Mueller pleaded guilty in March to felony drug possession of four grams or less of cocaine. The charge stemmed from her arrest Dec. 3 after another woman reported being assaulted at a nightclub. Mueller's spokesman confirms that terms of a sentence handed down Monday bar Mueller from drinking alcohol while she is on probation. She also must submit to random urine tests. Sheen and Mueller divorced last year. Sheen was arrested on suspicion of assaulting her in 2009. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault and completed his probation in 2010.

Peeping Tom gets an eyeful and couple reclaims privacy

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: From time to time I have read letters in your column about Peeping Toms. You might find our experience interesting.

Many years ago, soon after my husband, Klaus, and I arrived as newlyweds from Germany, we rented a small bungalow in L.A. There were seven of them in two rows behind our landlord's large home in the front.

Between our little house and our next-door neighbor's was a brick patio that extended from our bedroom window to her back door. Not long after we moved in, the woman began looking into our bedroom window on weekend mornings, pressing her nose against the glass. Because we were guests in this country, we didn't want to say anything, but we knew we needed to stop her.

My husband came up with the perfect solution. He placed a large mirror in the window frame. Sure enough, the weekend came and she peered into our window. Seeing her face reflected back, she dashed into her house and never looked again.

LILO IN COSTA MESA

DEAR LILO: I like your husband's style. Your neighbor may not have gotten the thrill she was seeking, but she sure enough got the message.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: There is a segment of the population that I have not seen you address. It's the many women whose dreams of marriage and children never came true.

Society gives so much attention to women who are pregnant and have children. It is very difficult for us to hear people brag on and on about their children and pass around their pictures.

People need to develop sensitivity for those like me, who prayed 25 years for marriage and children, but who didn't get this "gift from God."

ALONE IN THE NORTHWEST

DEAR ALONE: Parents bragging about their children and showing off pictures are natural reactions to having offspring. It is not meant to punish the childless.

There are thousands of children who desperately need the attention and affection you long to bestow, so please consider becoming an adoptive or foster parent, or volunteer with an organization such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America. The website is www.bbbs.org. Join the ranks and you, too, can experience the joys of rearing children and bragging as you show off your pictures.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a freshman in college. I would like to transfer to a college that two of my best friends from high school attend, and also change my planned major. We have been friends since seventh grade, and we would like to rent a house over the summer and remain in it during the next school year.

My problem is my father. Daddy insists that I shouldn't live with my high school friends. He says I should concentrate on making new friends and see my old ones less often. He is making it sound like if I don't do what he wants, that I'll mess up my entire future.

Am I wrong here? Would living with my friends be that horrible?

MIXED UP IN NEW YORK

DEAR MIXED UP: Your father may be concerned that you and your friends will be distracted and not apply yourselves fully to your studies if you share a house together. Although many first-year students change their planned majors, changing schools as well as your major and moving in with your friends may appear to your father as a retreat from adult responsibilities. The question you must answer is: Does he have cause to be concerned about your motives or your study habits?

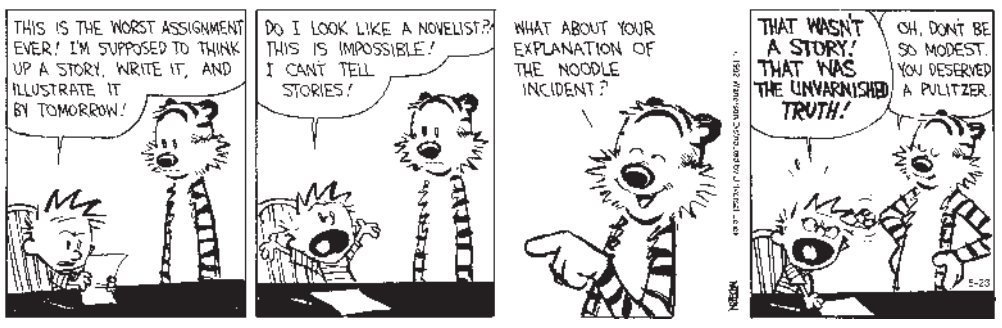
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS IS THE WORST ASSIGNMENT EVER! I'M SUPPOSED TO THINK UP A STORY, WRITE IT, AND ILLUSTRATE IT BY TOMORROW!
DO I LOOK LIKE A NOVELIST? THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! I CAN'T TELL STORIES!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPLANATION OF THE NOODLE INCIDENT?
THAT WASN'T A STORY! THAT WAS THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH!
OH, DON'T BE SO MODEST. YOU DESERVED A PULITZER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

EVERY DAY IS JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER DAY
MY LIFE HAS BEEN ONE LONG DAY
YOU WASTE A LOT OF MONEY ON CALENDARS
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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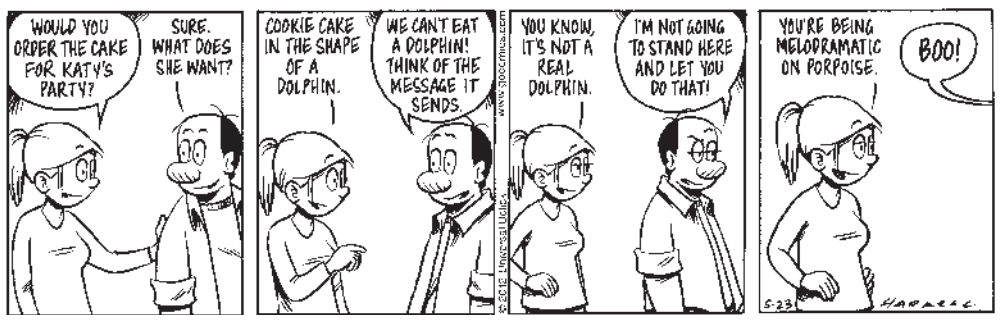
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOULD YOU ORDER THE CAKE FOR KATY'S PARTY?
SURE. WHAT DOES SHE WANT?
COOKIE CAKE IN THE SHAPE OF A DOLPHIN.
WE CAN'T EAT A DOLPHIN! THINK OF THE MESSAGE IT SENDS.
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT A REAL DOLPHIN.
I'M NOT GOING TO STAND HERE AND LET YOU DO THAT!
YOU'RE BEING MELODRAMATIC ON PORPOISE.
BOO!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

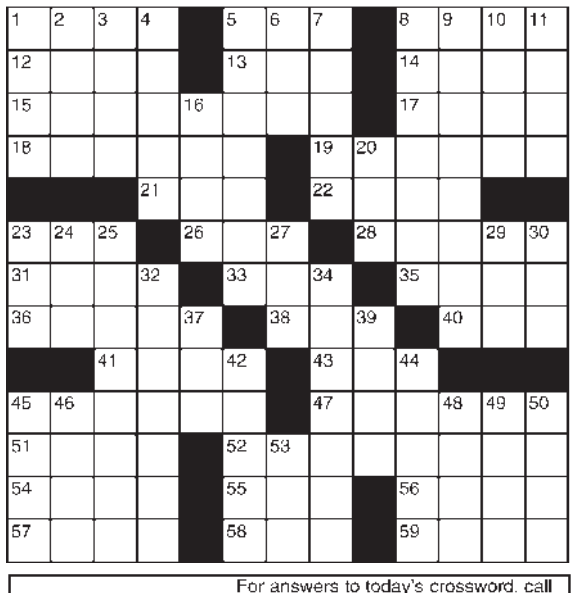
ACROSS
1 Bar bottles
5 Suitable
8 First victim
12 Sandwich treat
13 Train component
14 Go down the runway
15 Hull attachment
17 Ore carrier
18 Rainbow shade
19 Mark of disgrace
21 French vineyard
22 Antitoxins
23 Priestly vestment
26 Pismire
28 Rid of frost
31 Harvest
33 Ball holder
35 Uppity sort
36 Folkways
38 Mandela's org.
40 Weep loudly
41 Cereal choice
43 Petrol
45 Epic fail
47 Ahead
51 "— anything for you"
52 Traded
54 Night light
55 Drag along
56 Prima donna
57 Back talk
58 — out a living
59 Simple

DOWN
1 Asian desert
2 Mideast nation
3 Dweeb
4 Video-game hedgehog
5 Story
6 Crony
7 Lock
8 Outfits
9 Sales
10 Physical
11 South American capital
16 City of India
20 Williams or Turner
23 Branch
24 Writer Buscaglia
25 Bridgetown's island
27 Afternoon social
29 Bill's partner
30 Recede
32 Individuals
34 Glut
37 Cul-de-—
39 Lacks the skills
42 Aristocrat
44 Stockholmer, e.g.
45 Swimmer's footwear
46 Notion
48 Performance from 56-Across
49 Guns the engine
50 June 6, 1944
53 Diving bird

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	G	R	A	■	B	L	T	■	T	A	T	A
R	O	A	R	■	R	O	O	■	O	N	C	S
T	Y	P	E	C	A	S	T	■	U	T	A	H
S	A	T	■	L	I	T	■	I	C	I	I	Y
■	■	■	T	A	N	■	R	A	H	■	■	■
B	E	L	O	W	■	S	A	N	D	A	L	S
B	E	A	U	■	V	O	W	■	O	P	I	E
C	L	O	C	K	E	D	■	I	W	E	E	I
■	■	■	H	C	X	■	C	O	N	■	■	■
P	I	E	T	Y	■	F	O	R	■	B	U	S
F	D	D	Y	■	D	O	W	N	C	A	S	T
W	E	E	P	■	I	R	E	■	O	B	E	Y
S	A	N	E	■	P	E	R	■	W	A	D	E

Yesterday's answer 5-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Monaco, 36; Jewel, 38; Drew Carey, 54; Joan Collins, 79.

Happy Birthday: Pay more attention to your needs instead of spending time helping everyone else get ahead. You can accomplish what you set out to do if you don't let trivial matters slow you down or lead you astray. Mind over matter will be required to make your dreams come true. Your numbers are 2, 8, 14, 22, 27, 38, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Think ahead and be prepared to respond quickly. Uncertainty caused by undisclosed sources will make you reconsider your direction. A partnership will be more valuable than you expected. A love relationship will develop into something special. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't hang around doing nothing. There is much to see and even more to learn if you are a participant. Participating in events that involve people of different backgrounds will be insightful. Consider making a lifestyle change. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Follow through with your plans. All talk and no action will cause onlookers to doubt your credibility. Utilizing your talents will bring you the backing you want and the recognition you deserve. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will be emotional, and you'll find it difficult to deal with any changes that come your way. Don't ignore what's unfolding in front of you. It's better to be a part of change than to ignore it and get left behind. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Visit new places or make personal changes that will help you stand out. Let your uniqueness lead the way, and you will attract new friends as well as opportunities. You can make an impression without going overboard. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Update your looks, attitude and even your direction if you aren't happy with the way your future looks. You need to open up about your likes and dislikes and discuss your plans with the people you want in your life forever. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take care of your needs and stay out of everyone else's business. Catch up on odd jobs so you are free to start something new. Avoid people who are moody or looking to blame you for whatever goes wrong. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You will attract positive attention and propositions if you step into the spotlight and show off your skills. Financial advancement will result if you network with people who work in your industry. Make a cold call and see where it leads. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Money will slip through your fingers easily if you don't put it somewhere safe. Ask for a favor if that's what's required to get the job done. Be competitive and show your leadership abilities. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Nurture a partnership and you will avoid being blamed for not doing your part. Do what you can to make your home comfortable and welcome to family and friends. A decision regarding your personal life should be made. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't share too much information. Your actions will prove that you are sincere, but talk without follow-up will lead to complaints and disappointments. Love will turn in your favor if you show respect and willingness to share. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't fight if you can't win. Stick to the people who share your interests and your intent. Choose your direction and stick to it. Rely on experience to help you make a decision now. A partnership must be based on common interests. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer. You are original, dramatic and imaginative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	9			2	1	4	6
5			8					3
6			4					7
3			5				7	
	2	5					3	
4			1			9		
7			2			8		
1			3		8			
	5	8			6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/23

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	7	2	5	9	4	1	3
9	2	4	1	8	3	5	6	7
1	3	5	7	6	4	2	9	8
5	6	1	8	4	2	3	7	9
8	4	3	9	1	7	6	2	5
7	9	2	6	3	5	1	8	4
4	7	9	3	2	6	8	5	1
2	5	8	4	9	1	7	3	6
3	1	6	5	7	8	9	4	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/22

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BELIEFS ABOUT 2012 Solution: 12 letters

T	F	I	H	S	H	T	Y	M	U	M	I	X	A	M
W	R	C	T	H	E	O	R	I	E	S	E	L	O	P
E	E	A	R	T	H	A	P	P	E	N	O	R	C	F
N	R	T	N	E	W	E	R	A	T	L	N	L	H	E
T	A	A	Ⓐ	S	B	O	O	K	S	I	O	S	A	A
Y	E	S	Ⓨ	L	F	M	W	T	N	T	M	N	N	R
F	Y	T	Ⓐ	W	U	O	E	G	C	E	N	E	G	U
I	P	R	Ⓜ	A	R	C	R	C	P	I	W	E	E	Y
R	A	O	A	L	S	A	E	M	E	M	D	S	V	C
S	E	P	D	D	L	T	E	P	A	D	A	E	U	E
T	L	H	V	O	N	T	E	S	S	T	A	R	R	H
E	O	E	H	E	E	E	E	R	A	T	I	T	K	P
M	S	C	M	O	N	R	L	S	O	B	O	O	E	O
O	S	O	R	T	I	U	T	A	I	I	I	R	N	R
C	M	O	V	I	E	S	S	N	C	O	D	N	M	P

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Asteroid, Base, Books, Calendar, Catastrophe, Change, Comet, Date, December, Earth, Events, Fear, Happen, Law, Leap Year, Long, Loss, Mark, Maximum, Maya, Meteor, Moment, Morning, Movies, Myths, New Era, News, Nibiru, Poles, Predict, Prophecy, Scholar, Shift, Solar, Speculate, Storm, Theories, Time, Transformation, Twenty-first, Venus, World

Yesterday's Answer: Converts

The NEW Treasury 11 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $ 20 plus each plus $3 Pp postage and handling, each $ 4 Pp total each U.S. funds only. Send to: Name, 11 NO PO's for each additional name, to: Universal Uclick Attn: Wonderword 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll free 1-800-642-2482. Order online at puzzles.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Mixed doubles

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Tour Guide: $5.05/hr, tips and commission. High school diploma or higher is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Email resume to pkt@hanmisaipan.com. Civil Travel Service Co., Ltd.

(1) Tour Guide: $5.05/hr, tips and commission. High school diploma or higher is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Applicants with work experience in the Saipan tourism industry are preferred. Email resume to knl@hanmisaipan.com. K.N.L. Co., Ltd. dba Happy Island Tour

WANTED TO BUY

Seriously looking for used cars Year 2003 & up 4 cylinder. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR SALE

Pigs for sale, big white male, 2 females, Weiner pigs, quality stock. Breed or roast call 322-0268

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

"I want to go shopping!"

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

In the United States District Court
For the Northern Mariana Islands
Bankruptcy Division

In re Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

Bankr. Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Motion to Dismiss filed by the CNMI Government in the above-entitled matter is set for hearing before Hon. Robert J. Faris on **June 1, 2012** at **9:30 a.m.** in the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan.

Dated: May 16, 2012

By: Office of the Attorney General

IN SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MD. ABDUL KADER Petitioner	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0212
vs.	)	
LAMELIA BLESAM Respondent	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505775, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger of Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

L&T Group of Companies is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following position:

4 GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKERS

High school diploma or equivalent with experience in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to L & T Group of Companies office at the 2nd floor of JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Friday, May 25, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

L & T Group of Companies is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN

(1) Junior Accounting Analyst
Maintain proper accountability of cash funds and deposits. Ensure accurate data entry of receipts of all hotel revenue outlets and prepare daily cash collection report. Assist in maintaining accurate records and accounting files. Must be flexible and willing to perform a variety of support tasks.

Pre-requisites: 1) Education: BA in Business Administration, major in accounting is preferred. 2) Experience: Previous hotel-related experience is preferred, 5 years of progressive experience in accounting/bookkeeping related coursework. Strong personal computer skills required. Knowledge in SAP R/3 system preferred. Critical thinking skills to evaluate data, analyze problems and implement solutions are essential.

Applications may be picked up and submitted to Fiesta Resort's security office located in the South Wing.

Century Hotel

(1) General Maintenance Worker
Minimum of 2 years work experience as a handyman preferably in a hotel or similar large building or complex. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift over 30 lbs. Must be flexible to work holidays and week-ends. Willing to perform a variety of support task. Must possess a valid driver's license.

Application may be picked up and submitted at Fiesta Resort's security office located in the South Wing. A drug test must be passed as a condition of employment. **Closing date: May 26, 2012**

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

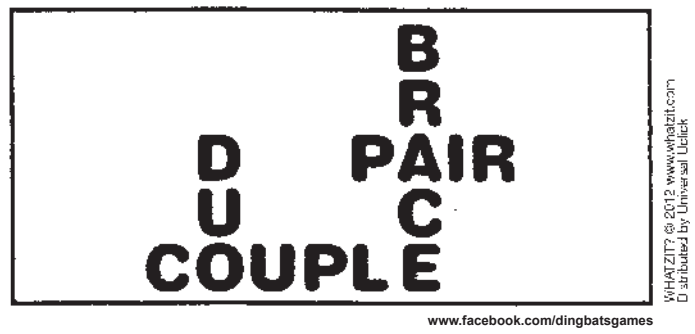
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Thunder surge past Lakers to win West semis

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—With the Oklahoma City Thunder just starting to come to life, Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant didn't need to take a break.

They will have enough time to rest as they get ready for a second straight trip to the Western Conference finals.

Westbrook scored 28 points, Durant added 25 points and 10 rebounds, and the two All-Stars skipped their usual rest periods to power the Thunder ahead in the second half for a 106-90 win over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 5 of the West semifinals on Monday night.

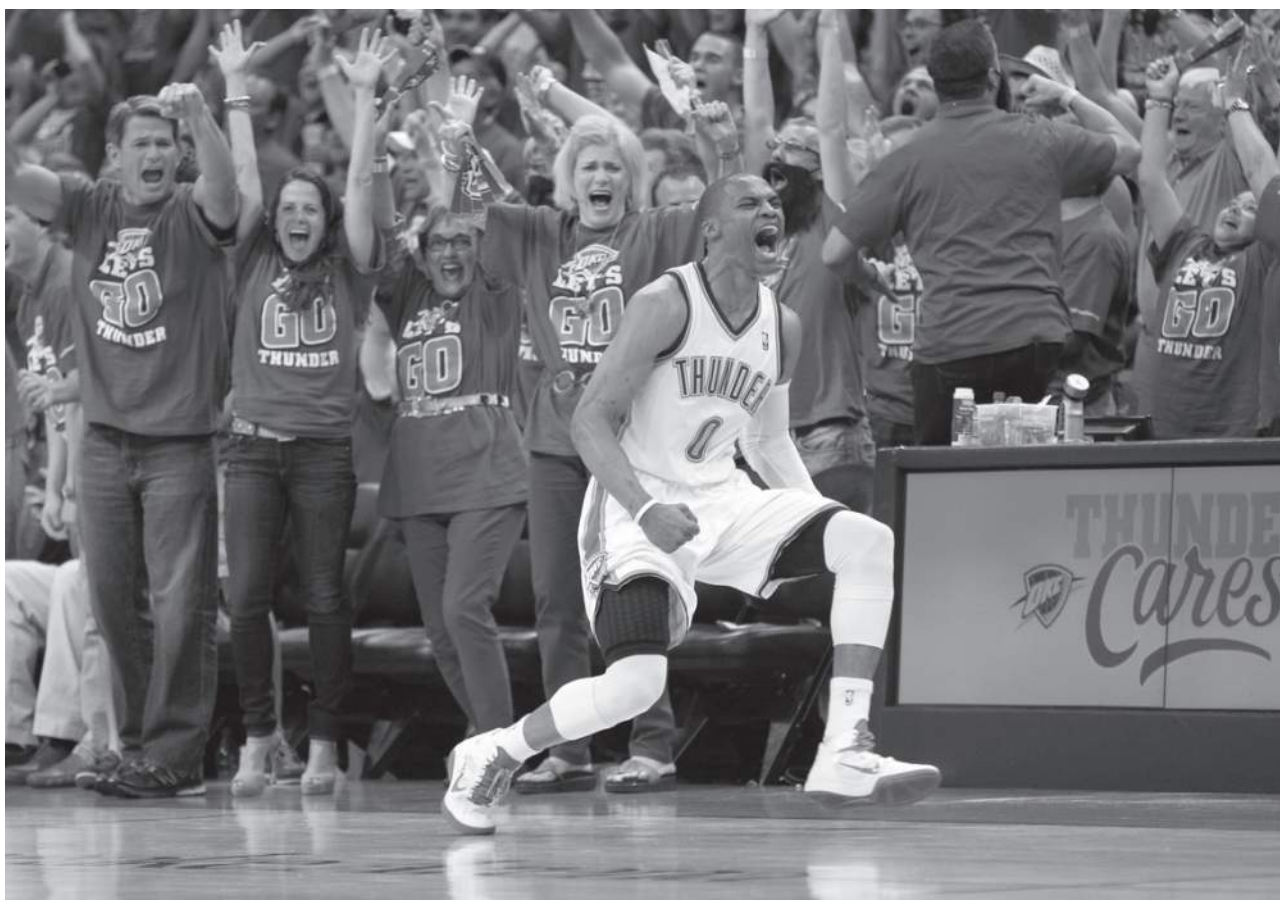
"We know that's the most important time of the game, especially in a tight game," Durant said. "I think that we kept our composure throughout the fourth, and our poise and we made plays."

Kobe Bryant scored 42 points for the Lakers and took the briefest of rest—less than 2 minutes—in the second half. It didn't even take that long for the game, and their season, to slip away.

After getting eliminated by Los Angeles in 2010 and Dallas in 2011 before both of those teams went on to win it all, the Thunder knocked both out on their way to the West finals for the second straight year.

The only other time the franchise made consecutive conference finals was from 1978-80, including Seattle's only NBA title in 1979.

Once there, they'll face the top-seeded Spurs, the only team other than the Lakers or Mavs to win the West in the past 13 years and currently riding an 18-game winning streak. The series starts Sunday night in San Antonio.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) reacts after hitting a basket against the Los Angeles Lakers in the third quarter of Game 5 in their NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal playoff series, Monday, May 21, 2012, in Oklahoma City.

After Westbrook's pair of three-point plays fueled a 14-3 burst that put Oklahoma City ahead to stay late in the third quarter, Durant hit two 3-pointers as the Thunder scored the first 10 points of the fourth to push their lead to 93-77.

Bryant was waiting to check in when Durant connected on his second 3-pointer, just 89 seconds into the fourth quarter. But by the time he got in, there was little he could do - despite the 13th 40-point game of his playoff career.

"That what we do. That's our rotations and that's the right rotation to make," Bryant said. "You have to trust that unit coming in there to hold the fort down."

Lakers coach Mike Brown said he trusted that unit—including starters Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum—after it had turned a five-point deficit into a lead to start the second quarter.

"I've got to be able to rest Kobe a few minutes here and there, and we didn't do a good job of handling it at that point in the game," Brown said, adding that he didn't keep Bryant out as long as he had planned.

Westbrook went running to the scorer's table and pumped his fist in the air after his first energizing three-point play, when he was able to flip the ball in after Ramon Sessions fouled him on the fast break.

"I just tried to throw it to the rim and luckily it went in. That kind of sparked us, and everybody else kept it going from there," Westbrook said.

Westbrook converted another after banking in a jumper from the left side despite Sessions slapping him on the arm to make it 82-76 with 1:29 left in the third quarter.

Durant extended the lead with a 3-pointer in the opening minute of the fourth and then hit another 32 seconds later—just after Bryant had stepped to the scorer's table to check in after a brief rest.

Bryant described it as "tough, to say the least."

After blowing a fourth-quarter lead in Game 4, Bryant had called out forward Pau Gasol to be more aggressive—much as he had with Gasol and Bynum before the Lakers faced elimination in Game 7 of the first round against Denver.

Gasol came through with a monster game—23 points, 17 rebounds and six assists—and Steve Blake scored a playoff career-best 19 points to save the Lakers that time. Bryant didn't get nearly as much help against the Thunder.

Gasol took 14 shots, his most of the series, but made only five to finish with 14 points and 16 rebounds. Metta World Peace scored 11 and Bynum 10.

James Harden added 17 points as Oklahoma City's bench outscored the Lakers' 35-5. The Thunder also had a 30-6 edge in fast-break scoring. The Lakers were outrebounded 51-35 and had only three offensive rebounds, two from Gasol and none from Bynum.

"We're asking our bigs to do a lot but I know for sure we could have gotten more scoring from those two guys in the offensive rebounding category ... and we could have gotten more from our bench," Brown said.

The Thunder got five of their first eight baskets on dunks and controlled the boards early on, grabbing 16 of the game's first 22 rebounds while keeping Los Angeles off the offensive glass for the first 11 minutes.

Bryant had to create all of the offense, scoring 15 of the Lakers' first 19 points and getting all six of his baskets without the benefit of an assist. When others started chipping in, the Lakers went on a 16-7 run to go up 35-32 following Bynum's three-point play.

Oklahoma City scored the next eight points, including Harden's fast-break dunk, before Bryant got past him for a pair of dunks of his own—the first a driving, two-handed reverse jam and the second a two-handed alley-oop slam over Harden.

But Bryant and World Peace both drew technical fouls as the Lakers lost their cool with 31.9 seconds left before halftime when World Peace was called for a flagrant foul against Thabo Sefolosha on a fast break. World Peace used his right hand to strip the ball from Sefolosha as he went up to the basket but then shoved him out of bounds with his left hand.

Sefolosha hit both free throws and Durant capitalized on both shots from the technicals World Peace and Bryant got for arguing the flagrant call to put the Thunder 54-51 ahead at halftime despite shooting less than 40 percent.

Celtics 101, 76ers 85

In Boston, Brandon Bass scored 18 points in the third quarter as Boston pulled away from Philadelphia and took a 3-2 edge in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Bass set a postseason career-high of 27 points while Kevin Garnett added 20 points and Rajon Rondo had 13 points and 14 assists for the Celtics, who can advance to the East finals with a victory in Philadelphia in Game 6 on Wednesday. The Sixers would need a win there to force the series back to Boston for a decisive seventh game on Saturday.

Elton Brand scored 19 and Evan Turner had 11 points and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia, which led by six points early in the third quarter before Boston scored 14 of the next 16 points. Bass scored eight of them, including back-to-back dunks followed by a steal that set up Ray Allen's layup and gave the Celtics a 63-57 lead with five minutes left in the quarter.

Boston closed out the third with a 10-2 run over the final 3 minutes and outscored the Sixers 28-16 in the period. The Celtics also scored 16 of the first 22 points in the fourth quarter—seven from Rondo—to seal the game.

Paul Pierce had 16 points—a perfect 9 for 9 from the free throw line—and Allen, back in the starting lineup because of an injury to Avery Bradley, had five points.

The Celtics acquired Bass in December in a trade with Orlando for Glen "Big Baby" Davis, and he worked his way into the starting lineup after the All-Star break. Although he solidified the power forward position after Garnett moved to center, he hadn't done anything spectacular—until Monday.

He left the game to a standing ovation with 2 minutes left and the Celtics leading by 18.

Magic fire coach Stan Van Gundy; GM also gone

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—For months the Orlando Magic have been trudging through the aftermath of a preseason trade request by Dwight Howard that sapped the life out of the franchise as internal team issues quickly affected the product on the floor.

Now after easily one of the most tumultuous seasons in their history, they made the first in what promises to be a huge offseason shake-up.

The Magic fired coach Stan Van Gundy on Monday and agreed to part ways with general manager Otis Smith, severing ties with two of the architects of one of the most successful runs in franchise history.

Smith and Van Gundy's relationship with Howard was the centerpiece of drama the team faced all season and following their second straight first-round playoff exit, CEO Alex Martins said the shift was warranted.

"It's time for a new leadership and a new approach," Martins said at a news conference to discuss the moves. "We simply came to the decision that we were not on the right track,"

Martins wouldn't go into many specifics about what he is looking for in replacements, saying only that he and ownership want to fill the general manager post by June's NBA draft.

He said he would sit down with ownership on Tuesday to begin ironing out the details of both searches.

Phone and text messages left with Van Gundy and Smith by The Associated Press were not immediately returned.

Orlando went 37-29 in the regular season but was eliminated in five games by Indiana after a rash of late-season injuries that included back surgery for Howard. Orlando went 5-12 without him.

Martins said those consecutive first-round playoff exits were "simply not good enough."

In early April, Van Gundy claimed top-ranking team officials had told him that Howard had asked management to fire Van Gundy as a condition of the center signing a long-term contract beyond 2013. Howard denied it.

Martins addressed that dispute directly, saying "At no time during that time did Dwight ask me to have Stan fired."

With a relationship with Smith dating back to the Magic's inaugural season when Smith was a player and a five-year relationship with Van Gundy, Martins also called Monday "the most difficult day of my career."

Both Smith and Van Gundy are under contract through next season and both of their contracts will be honored. The current assistant coaching staff has also been offered the opportunity to stay on for now.

Van Gundy coached the Magic for five seasons. He finished with a 259-135 record, going 31-28 in the playoffs.

Smith departs after six years. He was the architect of Magic teams that made it to the playoffs in each of those seasons, winning the Eastern Conference championship in 2009. But he also made several questionable moves, including trades for Vince Carter and Gilbert Arenas that failed to work out long-term.

The day after the Magic's season ended with the loss to the Pacers, Smith said that he would need a few days to even decide whether he wanted to return to that position following the tough year, setting it as a "50-50" chance.

Van Gundy said at the time he wanted to return and was hoping that the ultimate decision would be about performance solely.

"When you're talking a professional relationship, what matters—at least to me—is the results," Van Gundy said. "I don't care if it's a business relationship where two people at work are driving a business to make money, or if it's a sports relationship, where the object is to win games."

Three homers lead Dodgers over DBacks

PHOENIX (AP)—Los Angeles' Matt Treanor, Andre Ethier and James Loney all homered to lead the Dodgers to a 6-1 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Monday and their fifth straight win.

Ethier's solo home run in the seventh and raised his National League-best RBI total to 38.

Loney added a two-run homer deep in the eighth. It came one pitch after Justin Sellers' first career triple brought in the Dodgers' fourth run.

Los Angeles starter Chris Capuano (6-1) allowed one run in six innings, striking out five and walking one. Treanor gave him all the support he needed with his first home run of the season, a two-run shot off Patrick Corbin (2-3) in the second.

The Diamondbacks have lost eight of nine home games.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Matt Treanor (18) high-fives Jerry Sands (30) after Treanor's two-run home run during the second inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Monday, May 21, 2012, in Phoenix.

Reds 4, Braves 1

In Cincinnati, pitcher Mike Leake hit his first career homer—one of three solo shots in a row by Cincinnati—and allowed only two hits over eight innings for a victory against Atlanta.

Drew Stubbs hit two of the career-high four homers allowed by Braves starter Mike Minor (2-4). All the runs scored on solo homers at one of the majors' most hitter-friendly ballparks.

Leake (1-5) finally got his first victory in eight starts this season, doing a little bit of everything. He struck out a season-high six and retired 14 in a row.

Nationals 2, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Gio Gonzalez pitched six shutout innings to steer Washington past Philadelphia.

Gonzalez (6-1), a former Phillies minor leaguer, struck out seven of the first nine batters and finished with nine strikeouts. That upped his total to 35 over his past four starts, all wins, in 25 innings.

Ian Desmond homered and drove in both runs for Washington, while Bryce Harper had two hits.

Sean Burnett came in with one out in the ninth and runners on second and third but escaped the jam to earn the save.

Pirates 5, Mets 4

In Pittsburgh, Neil Walker scored on Clint Barmes' tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning as Pittsburgh rallied to edge New York.

Mike McKenry tied it with a two-run homer in the seventh and Walker made it all the way to third base in the eighth when his long drive off Jon Rauch (3-3) glanced off the glove of the center fielder for an error and rolled to the wall. One batter later, Barmes hit a fly to right and Walker just beat the throw to the plate.

Pittsburgh's Jared Hughes (1-0) earned his first major league win in relief. Joel Hanrahan worked the ninth for the save.

David Wright had two hits for the Mets to lift his batting average to a major league-best .415.

Cardinals 4, Padres 3

In St. Louis, Tyler Greene hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning, trumping Jesus Guzman's two-run double in the top half, as St. Louis beat San Diego to snap a four-game losing streak.

Yadier Molina hit a broken-bat single with one out in the eighth off Andrew Cashner (2-3). With two outs, Greene homered with his third hit of the game.

The injury-riddled Cardinals maintained their half-game lead in the NL Central over Cincinnati.

St. Louis' Jason Motte (3-1) allowed Guzman's two-run double but finished off the win.

Giants 4, Brewers 3, 14 innings

In Milwaukee, backup catcher Hector Sanchez led off the 14th inning with a home run to lift San Francisco over Milwaukee.

Buster Posey hit a three-run shot in the first, accounting for the rest of San Francisco's runs. Sanchez's second homer of the season came off reliever Juan Perez (0-1).

Giants reliever Santiago Casilla (1-2) pitched the final two innings for the win.

Marlins 7, Rockies 4

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton hit a grand slam to highlight a five-run fourth inning that set up Miami's win over Colorado.

Austin Kearns tied a career best with four hits for the Marlins, whose 15-5 record in May leads the majors.

Miami starter Buehrle (4-4) worked 7 2-3 innings, giving up four runs in the first but only one more hit the rest of the way.

Astros 8, Cubs 4

In Houston, Jason Castro and Chris Johnson each hit three-run homers to power Houston past slumping Chicago.

Castro's home run came in the second inning and Johnson added his in the third, handing the Cubs their season-worst seventh loss in a row. Jed Lowrie also homered for the Astros.

Houston starter Bud Norris (5-1) threw seven scoreless innings, striking out eight. He has allowed just one earned run during his current four-game winning streak.

Cubs starter Matt Garza (2-2) yielded a season-worst seven runs in three innings — his shortest start of the season.

Blue Jays 6, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Toronto's Kyle Drabek overcame command issues to win for the first time on the road this season, guiding the Blue Jays to a win over the Tampa Bay Rays, closing within a game of their American League East rivals.

Drabek (4-4), who entered 0-3 with a 5.23 ERA away from home, allowed three hits in six innings in a winning but less-than-convincing performance.

Yunel Escobar put Toronto in front 3-2 on a solo homer off Jeremy Hellickson (4-1) in the sixth.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 6

In Baltimore, David Ortiz homered in the sixth inning to start Boston's comeback from a three-run deficit, overrunning Baltimore.

The Red Sox got three hits from Will Middlebrooks, while Dustin Pedroia had two RBIs and Mike Aviles scored the go-ahead run in the seventh. The Red Sox moved back to .500 (21-21) for the first time in three weeks.

Boston went up 7-5 with two runs in the seventh against Kevin Gregg (2-2).

Red Sox reliever Andrew Miller (1-0) retired all five batters he faced to earn the win on his 27th birthday.

Mariners 6, Rangers 1

In Seattle, the hosts saw off Texas pitcher Yu Darvish after just four innings in his shortest start of the season, and the Mariners rolled to their fourth straight win.

Seattle is the first team that Darvish (6-2) has faced twice, and for a second time he struggled. The Japanese labored through 96 pitches and a season-high six walks.

Mariners ace Felix Hernandez (4-3) rebounded from consecutive poor starts and held the highest-scoring team in the majors to one run in eight innings.

Athletics 2, Angels 1

In Oakland, Tommy Milone was in command over seven innings, steering Oakland to a tight win over Los Angeles.

Milone (6-3) walked only one and never allowed the anemic Angels line-up to get going. His only blemish was an RBI double in the fifth.

Kila Ka'aihue drove in the go-ahead run for the Ahtletics.

Angels starter Jerome Williams (4-2) had his four-game winning streak stopped. He hadn't lost since his first start of the season.

Los Angeles has lost three straight and learned Monday that Vernon Wells will be out for at least two months with a torn ligament in his right thumb.

Royals 6, Yankees 0

In New York, Felipe Paulino (2-1) blanked New York for the second time in a month, guiding Kansas City to a victory that sent the Yankees to the bottom of the AL East division.

Mike Moustakas and Jeff Francoeur hit two-run homers for the Royals.

New York's bats fizzled once again, going 0 for 13 with runners in scoring position. Booed repeatedly by their demanding fans, the Yankees lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Hiroki Kuroda (3-6) took the loss.

Witness says he saw Clemens at Canseco pool party

WASHINGTON (AP)—Star-struck at 11 when he saw pitching great Roger Clemens, a 25-year-old man became a witness for prosecutors seeking to convict the former baseball player of lying to Congress.

At issue was a 1998 gathering at player Jose Canseco's house that Clemens denied attending—one of the false statements prosecutors allege Clemens made in his 2008 congressional deposition.

On Monday, Alexander Lowrey testified that he saw Clemens at the party. Prosecutors showed several photos of the former pitcher in attendance, including one of the 11-year-old Lowrey on the deck of the pool, next to a smiling Clemens standing in the shallow end of the water. The former pitcher's hair is bleach-blond, which is how Lowrey said he recalled it.

Lowrey said he had been invited to the party in south Florida by a handyman who worked for his family's business as well as Canseco. At the time, Clemens and Canseco were teammates with the Toronto Blue Jays. Lowrey said he played baseball back then and looked up to Clemens as "one of the best pitchers in the game."

Clemens' lawyer tried to play with the potentially faulty memory Lowrey might have of a party that happened more than a dozen years ago. Lowrey couldn't remember some details and said he had to estimate the times he arrived and left, but he said he had a clear memory of meeting Clemens and Canseco.

Brian McNamee, Clemens' longtime strength and conditioning coach, has said he saw Clemens and Canseco talking to a mysterious third person at the pool party, a person McNamee said he felt had a connection to steroids. McNamee said he first injected Clemens with steroids a few days later and continued to do so in 1998, 2000 and 2001. Clemens' denial at a 2008 House hearing and deposition of taking performance-enhancing drugs led to his indictment for lying to Congress.

Clemens, in his congressional deposition in February 2008, said, "I never was at the party." Later in the deposition, he said: "I wasn't here at this—at a party that he had. I could have gone by there after a golf outing. So—but I was not at this party."

Prosecutors tried to hammer the point by showing a video of Clemens testifying before Congress a few days later, where he says he might have dropped off at the party his wife or a relative who had golfed with him.

"But at the time of the day that I would have expressed it to be, I was on my way to the ballpark," he insisted. "I would have had to have gotten to the ballpark extremely early. I know one thing. I wasn't there having huddled up with somebody trying to do a drug deal. I know that for sure."

Over at the defense table, Clemens nodded—as if in agreement with his previous statement.

McNamee, the only person to claim firsthand knowledge of Clemens using steroids and human growth hormone, finally got to name names in front of the jury: Andy Pettitte, Chuck Knoblauch and Mike Stanton.

Before Monday's session, he had not been allowed to say that he provided former Clemens teammates Pettitte and Knoblauch with human growth hormone, or that he helped ex-Clemens teammate Stanton obtain HGH from drug dealer Kirk Radomski. The judge had ruled that such information could prejudice the jury against Clemens.

But Hardin's grueling cross-examination tipped the balance in the other direction, prosecutors argued. Hardin suggested before the jury last week that McNamee had solely or primarily targeted Clemens, and that no one had been charged in connection with McNamee's accusations, raising the issue of McNamee's credibility.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton therefore ruled that McNamee could name Knoblauch and Stanton as receiving HGH in 2001 when they were with the New York Yankees, and Pettitte in 2002 when he was with the Yankees. The judge instructed the jury that the names could only be used to help establish McNamee's "credibility as a witness" and cannot be used to "infer Mr. Clemens' guilt."

Titans, Voyagers keep hopes alive for sweep

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

19th Hole Bar & Grill's Titans and Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers remain the favorites in their respective Obyan and Agingan divisions as the Saipan Billiard Association's Budweiser Cup "race-to-nine" postseason tournament started last week.

Obyan's Titans were recently issued a first place finish after completion of the regular season by coming out on top of a pivotal tiebreaker against Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS.

The Titans went on to outlast their rivals, 9-7, again in a tight road match last Tuesday to advance to the second round.

The Titans now must go through Poseidon's Yang-Ku, and then surpass Jonny's Crazy 8, which eliminated Shark Attack, 9-7, in a road draw held at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill last week in order to make the finals.

In addition, Joe's Steakhouse's Fotten Palau ousted 19th Hole's Poksu, 9-2, on the road last Tuesday to advance to the semifinal where they will be paired against Bammy's Restaurant Bar & Grill's Boom Boom, which downed The Water Front, 7-3, at home last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Agingan's defending champion IT&E Voyagers is also still alive after after knocking out the Docomo Pacific Home Boyz, 9-4, in a road match at Poseidon last Tuesday to advance to the second round.

It will duel New Saipan Aluminum's Hustlers at Utopia Sports Bar in the next round. Bammy's IT&E Incredibles will also face off against Ocean Warriors in the other semifinal pairing at Joe's.

Following the elimination matches, the two division kings will be crowned next Tuesday.

DEBUTS

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It was more of the same in the third, as the gap widened to 88-21 before the match mercilessly ended with the southerners ahead by a whopping 81 points.

Alina Bonto scored 19 points in support of Benavente, while two other Guam players finished in double figures. Tinian was paced by the 15 markers of Regene Palacios.

The results of yesterday's games between Guam and CNMI 2 and CNMI 1 against Tinian will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

First Game

CNMI 1 66 – Lebria 13, Ito 10, Rios 10, Abrams 10, Gozon 10, Mendoza 3, R. Kautz 3, Williams 3, M. Kautz 2, Gatchalian 2.

CNMI 2 20 – Pena 5, Reyes 4, Francisco 4, Garon 3, Lumbao 2, Samson 1, Alipio 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-5, 33-9, 52-13, 66-20.

Second Game

Guam 110 – Benavente 27, Bonto 19, San Nicolas 10, Pangilinan 10, Duenas 8, Quitugua 8, Yeban 5, Rupley 2.

Tinian 29 – Palacios 15, Borja 9, Santos 3, King 2.

Scoring by quarters: 38-6, 62-13, 88-21, 110-29.

GAGU

From Page 28

It maintained favor, 16-7, with another eight-run burst later in the fourth inning off a grand slam by Robert Lacanlale, an RBI base rip by Reyes, and some errors late in the frame.

It appeared to be a promising margin for Managaha until G-Ballers unleashed a 12-run attack in the top of the fifth off nine hits.

Starting at the top of their order a string of four hits to start the inning ended with a two-run homer by Jun Salalila.

An error and a hit kept things alive as Ray Borja bagged an RBI single before two errors brought in another couple of runs.

G-Ballers' Julian Salalila also came away with an RBI base rip, while Jun Salalila hammered a two-RBI smash before Managaha could get out of dodge.

Managaha managed three runs in the bottom frame to lock it up at 19-all, but were held scoreless in the late innings.

The match went into a bonus frame and the G-Ballers moved around five runs off some costly errors, a pair of RBI singles by Jude Dickinson and Jun Salalila, and an RBI double by Borja. Still in search of its first win, Managaha puttered out in the final stand, letting another one slip through their fingers.

G-Ballers' Jun Salalila, Borja, and Franz Decena all batted 4-for-5.

Gagu Eyez 7, Six Pack 6

Six Pack took an early 4-0 lead in the second inning off four hits.

Leadoff batter Dante Sablan reached and scored off errors, Ken Tanzawa brought in Kaegel Taitano with a sacrifice fly, and Dan Repeki and Ota Nobuyuki bagged a pair of RBI singles.

Gagu Eyez managed two runs back from James Ulloa and Abe Quitugua in the top half of the third, but Six Pack's D.J. Omar got them back with one swing of the bat in the bottom portion.

It remained a 6-2 count in favor of Six Pack for the next three innings until Gagu Eyez pulled out a five-run rally in the last inning of regulation off an early error and six hits with their backs against the wall.

Juan Tenorio, Noki Torres, Jack Sablan, and Swain Cangco all busted RBI base smashes.

Gagu Eyez's Ulloa and Cangco batted 3-for-4 in the duel.

Warriors 15, Elias 13

The game was locked at 2-all for the first three innings until Elias assumed a brief 5-2 edge in the bottom of the fourth inning off three hits.

Rodney Camacho knocked in leadoff man Glenn Camacho and Ralph Magofna and Jordan Tagabuel kept it rolling with a pair of RBI singles.

The Warriors then gashed Elias with nine runs in the top of the fifth and shot ahead, 11-5, off seven hits.

Sydney Kani bagged an RBI single, Josh Garde an RBI double, Henry Reyes crushed a two-RBI double, Greg Magofna ripped an RBI single and scored off an error, and Cris Pangelinan Jr. topped it off with a three-run home run that brought around Fred Pangelinan and Darren Pua.

Elias fired back in the bottom frame and pulled within a run off six hits. Mel Manahane lifted a sacrifice fly, Glenn Camacho and B.J, Nicolas each blasted RBI doubles, while Rodney Camacho and Magofna belted a pair of RBI base rips.

The Warriors then added four runs to their lead in the sixth from a two-run shot by Kani.

Warriors' Pangelinan Jr. batted 3-for-4 in the match. Elias' Mike Cruz swung 4-for-4 with two runs. Glenn Camacho batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two other runs, while Ralph Magofna went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs.

Berdax 11, Saipal 10

Berdax established a 5-3 advantage in the opening frame off four hits and some early jitters out in the field by their opponents.

An early run came home off an error, after which Dave Camacho left the yard for two runs. Three batters later, Jesse Tenorio cranked a two-RBI double. Saipal's Eli Ilong hammered a three-run shot that broke the ice in the top of the inning.

Saipal got one run back in the second frame from Alonzo Besong and the count shifted to 6-5 moments later as both teams worked around a run in the third inning.

Saipal's Leo Bobai scored Gloyd Martin with a double, while Berdax's Ben Taisacan busted a solo shot to end the frame.

After a scoreless fourth, Saipal added a run off an error, but Berdax spurted ahead, 10-6, in the bottom frame from an RBI bass rip by Camacho and a three-run bomb by Taisacan.

Saipal pulled within a run in the sixth inning from an RBI single by Marino Hiroichi and a two-RBI smash by Clifton Silil, but came up a little short in the end as both teams held each other to just a run apiece in the final stand.

Berdax's Taisacan batted 2-for-3 for four RBIs, a run, and a base on balls. Saipal's Ilong swung 3- for-4 with three RBIs and a run.

Sakudi 21, Rookies 0

Sakudi got right to work and put up six runs off five shots and some early errors in the first inning. Bert Camacho, Kiki Aldan, and Rachel Sillil bagged RBI singles and Lillian Aguon bashed a two-RBI base rip.

The Rookies left a runner at second base in the bottom half and Sakudi exploded with 11 more runs in the second inning off 10 hits.

Liz Lebria started it up after a pair of leadoff hits with a two-RBI single. Two hits later Janica Lizama drove in a run and an error after that Sillil bagged another RBI base knock.

With two outs still to go, Sakudi's Eileen Babauta cranked out the team's seventh hit of the inning, which was followed by a couple of errors that helped enable a sacrifice fly for Jul Jen and a pair from Gerry Dela Cruz and Lebria.

The Rookies were already deflated by the start of their second chance at the plate and ended up stranding another runner in scoring position.

Sakudi went on to add four runs off five hits, which put the mercy rule into effect in just the third frame. Sillil bagged an RBI single, while the other runs came off errors.

The Rookies managed only its third base runner of the game in the bottom portion. Notably, Sakudi out-hit the Rookies, 20-2.

X-clusive 13, Talu Fahn 3

Talu Fahn got started early and moved around all three of its runs in the very first inning primarily off errors.

X-clusive's Vince Cepeda got one run back in the bottom frame with a sacrifice fly and teammate Fred Sato obliged with another sacrifice in the second inning.

Talu Fahn's offense disappeared after the early spark, while X-clusive erupted in the third inning with nine runs off seven hits.

Talu Fahn' pitcher Eric Cabrera walked four of the first five batters, which set up an RBI single by McQueen Masaharu and a grand slam by J.J. Cabrera.

The team then reloaded the bases for a three-RBI triple by John Reyes. He was sacrificed home by Dennis Ngeskebei, while Cepeda capped off the onslaught with a solo blast.

Talu Fahn left a man stranded at third base in the top of the fourth and were stuffed yet again with runners at first and second in the final stand.

X-clusive's Ben Sablan batted 3-for3 with a run.

SSC

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50m backstroke. Chenstsova is a 9th grader at Saipan International School.

Akimaru, an 11-year-old 6th grader at Saipan Community School, will swim in the 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, and 50m breaststroke.

Nine-year-old Sato, for his part, will compete in the 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 200m individual medley, and 50m freestyle. Sato is a 4th grade student at Garapan Elementary School.

Suzuki, a 9-year-old 3rd grade student at Saipan Community School, will swim in the 100m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 200m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly, and 200m IM.

A 3rd grader at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, 9-years-old Takahashi will take part in the 100m backstroke, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 200m IM.

The 50m breaststroke and 100m breaststroke, meanwhile, await 9-year-old Whispering Palms School 3rd grader Kasai.

Aside from the individual events, the four 9-year-old boys—Suzuki, Takahashi, Suzuki, and Kasai—will also swim the 200m medley and freestyle relays.

Chentsova, for her part, will swim the freestyle in the 13-14 year old girls Medley Relay for the CNMI team consisting of both SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers.

This will be Takahashi and Kasai's first time to participate in the Guam annual meet. Last year at this meet, Akimaru won each of his events, giving him the highest possible number of points (140) which won him the 9 to 10 year old boys age group high point award.

This year he enters a new age category—11 to 12 years. Chentsova, for her part, finished fourth overall in the girls 13 to 14 age category last year and aims to improve that position this year.

Suzuki placed third in the U8 age group after collecting 102 points and will also enter a new age category for this upcoming race.

Following the meet on May 27, five of the SSC swimmers and Carey will compete in the 22nd Annual International Invitational Cocos Crossing, a grueling 2.5-mile open ocean swim from Cocos Island to Merizo Pier.

GUAM

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tacked from long range and connected on a couple of 3-point bombs as Guam began to break away and opened up a daunting 51-28 deficit for CNMI 1 at intermission.

A halftime pep talk from coach Omar Ajoste and brief rest was not enough for CNMI 1 as Guam continued to throttle the home team at the start of the second half.

With Guam players sharing the ball and hitting the open man as opposed to CNMI 1 cagers going one-on-one, the visitors extended the lead to 77-48 heading into the fourth and final quarter.

The Mutt-and-Jeff combo of Setik and Sakazaki this time got help from high-leaping forward Rashaun Blas as the three scored all but seven of Guam's 26 points in the third.

CNMI 1 continued to play hard even with the insurmountable lead staring them in the face. Reserve forward Bryle Alegre joined hands with Salem and Tudela to chip away at the lead.

However, even with Guam's shock troopers in the game, the visitors still won the game going away.

Setik, whose twin brother Sam also saw action for Guam, led all players with 26 points, while Sakazaki and Blas added 24 and 16 markers, respectively.

CNMI 1 was paced by Jack Aranda with 11 points, while Tudela and Salem tallied 10 points apiece.

In yesterday's first game in the boys division, CNMI 2 got the better of Saipan 2, 52-46, with Karlo De Leon leading the way with 17 points.

Palau, meanwhile, vanquished Tinian, 83-70, in the game prior to the Guam-CNMI 1 tiff.

The results of the CNMI 2 vs. Tinian and CNMI 1 vs. Saipan 2 match-ups were still not available as of press time.

In Monday's second to the last game, CNMI 1 edged Palau, 91-78, behind the hot hands of Tudela who powered his way to 24 points. Aranda scored 19 in support. Palau was led by the 13 of Marvic Ngchar.

Monday's final game, meanwhile, saw Saipan 1 beat CNMI 2 with John Paulo Darag firing 21 markers. CNMI 2 was led by the 19 of De Leon.

Guam 108 – Sammy Setik 26, Sakazaki 24, Blas 16, Merrill 7, Flores 7, Oledan 7, Onedera 5, Taitano 4, Jose 4, Dimla 4, Sam Setik 4.

CNMI 1 66 – Aranda 11, Tudela 10, Salem 10, Mizer 9, Alegre 9, De Guzman 7, Aguilar 4, Hoffschneider 4, Feria 2,

Scoring by quarters: 23-21, 51-28, 77-48, 108-66.

MISO High School Boys Soccer Finals

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Saipan International School player, in blue, is corralled by three Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray defensemen during the MISO High School Boys Soccer Finals last May 19 at the Oleai Sports Complex pitch.

Two SIS players collide as they both use their heads in an effort to rebound a dump pass, while the SSHS goalie, green shirt, leaps up to stand his ground.

An SIS player looks for a passing lane at midfield.

An SIS forward, right, tries to streak past an SSHS midfielder.

A Manta Ray player, right, changes direction and works the ball back toward the middle.

SIS' Clay McCullough-Stearns, in blue, jumps up for a header.

SIS's Jehn Joyner sinks a penalty kick during the first finals match.

An SIS forward, in blue, tries to turn up field.

SIS' goaltender tracks down a long range shot into the red zone.

Thunder surge past Lakers to win West semis

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Sports

Three homers lead Dodgers over DBacks

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Guam juggernaut too much for CNMI 1

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Guam U17 national team beat CNMI 1 to continue its tear in the boys 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the third in as many games for the U.S. territory while dealing the de facto CNMI U17 national squad its first loss in three games.

The game actually began well for the local boys, as guard Nevin Salem and frontliners Christian Mizer and Jimmy Tudela together scored 14 points and CNMI 1 prevented Guam from its patented jackrabbit start and trailed only by two, 21-23.

That all changed in the second canto though, as Guam went to its dreaded full-court press that led to quick transition baskets.

To make matters worse, when CNMI 1 was able to slow down their opponents' fastbreak attack, the U.S. territory posted up 6'3" Michael Sakazaki who came away with 8 points in the quarter.

Guard Sammy Setik also at-

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MARK RABAGO

CNMI 1's Jack Aranda tries to jackknife through the defense of Guam's Neil Oledan in their 2012 boys U17 MBT game yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Guam, CNMI 1 cage belles win their debuts

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Favored teams CNMI 1 and Guam won their respective debuts in the girls 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament Monday at the Marianas High School Gymanasium.

CNMI 1 was the first to hit the hardwood and dominated sister team CNMI 2, 66-20.

With center Rachel Adams scoring 6 and Kyla Ito 4 points, CNMI 1 was off to the races and led 18-5 after the first 10 minutes.

Krizandra Gozon joined the scoring spree in the second, teaming up with Ito as CNMI 1 stretched its advantage to 33-9 at the half.

Another four-point quarter further doomed CNMI 2's chances of gaining some headway against their older counterparts, as their deficit ballooned to 39 points, 13-52, after three periods of play.

Kaylani Lebria exploded for eight points in the third to key CNMI 1's continued domination of CNMI 2.

Keolani Rios then put on the finishing touches to CNMI 1's blowout of CNMI 2, pumping in 6 of her 10 points in the payoff period as her team coasted to the victory.

Lebria led five CNMI 1 players in twin digits with 13, while Friendly Joy Pena paced CNMI 2 with 5 markers.

MARK RABAGO

CNMI 1's Liamwar Rangamar pulls up for jumper against CNMI 2's Shaine Santiago in their girls U17 MBT game Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the second game, Guam got 27 points from Kali Benavente as the U.S. territory started its campaign on a high note by beating Tinian black and blue, 110-29.

After a 38-6 first quarter, Guam boosted that lead further, 62-13, at the close of the first half.

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Gagu Eyez rallies past Six Pack, 7-6

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League matches from last Wednesday saw men's G-Ballers (3-6) besting Managaha (0-9), 24-19, in a barn burner; third-ranked Gagu Eyez (7-2) making it past Six Pack (2-5), 7-6; and the Warriors (4-4) holding off Elias (4-4), 15-13.

Meanwhile, last May 14, men's Berdax (5-3) eked past Saipal (5-5), 11-10; current women's runner-up Sakudi (5-2) steamrolled the Rookies (1-5), 21-0, in three innings; and men's X-clusive (4-5) routed Saipal (5-5), 13-3, after five frames.

Last year's finalists Natibu (9-1) and Man Amigos (7-1) remain atop the men's standings with Manelos (5-3), Your Ball (5-3), and Familia (4-6) filling out the rest of the men's field.

Check It Out (5-1) leads the women's division with 670 Babes (3-3) and Enamo Meta (2-5) also in the mix.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The ball pops out off the glove of Saipal centerfielder Eli Ilong against Berdax in their CSA 2nd Budweiser Softball League men's game last May 14 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

G-Ballers 24, Managaha 19

Managaha built a strong 8-2 lead in the second inning primarily from a trio of home runs by Emilio Santos Jr., Rusty Santos, and Harlan Reyes.

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SSC to send six swimmers to Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left back row, Victoria Chentsova, coach Mieko Carey, and Kento Akimaru; and, from left front row, Lennosuke Suzuki, Rinto Takahashi, Taiga Sato, and Naoki Kasai make up the Saipan Swim Club team that will take part in this weekend's 2012 Guam Swimming Championships.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Swim Club will be sending six of the club's best swimmers to the 2012 Guam Swimming Championships set for this weekend, May 25 and 26, at the Hagatna 50m pool.

Making up the team are Victoria Chentsova, Kento Akimaru, Taiga Sato, Lennosuke Suzuki, Rinto Takahashi, and Naoki Kasai. SSC assistant coach Mieko Carey will accompany the six swimmers in the long course meet.

Fourteen-year-old Chentsova will see action in the 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 100m backstroke, and

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